DC

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA™

JSA™

DAVID GOYER
STEPHEN SADOWSKI
MICHAEL BAIR
CARLOS PACHECO
JESUS MERINO

BY GEOFF JOHNS

BOOK TWO

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GEOFF JOHNS · DAVID GOYER
Writers

STEPHEN SADOWSKI · MICHAEL BAIR · CARLOS PACHECO
JESUS MERINO · PHIL WINSLADE · MIKE PERKINS · STEVE YEOWELL
KEITH CHAMPAGNE · BUZZ · RAGS MORALES · DAVE MEIKIS · PAUL NEARY
ROB LEIGH · JAVIER SALTARES · RAY KRYSSING · ANDREW PEPOY
Artists

JOHN KALISZ · TOM McCRAW
Colorists

KEN LOPEZ · PAT PRENTICE · KURT HATHAWAY
Letterers

ALAN DAVIS and MARK FARMER
Collection Cover Artists

HAWKMAN created by GARDNER FOX
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER
By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family

Peter Tomasi **Mike McAvennie** **Dan Raspler** **Ivan Cohen** Editors – Original Series
Steve Wacker Associate Editor – Original Series **L.A. Williams** **Valerie D'Orazio** Assistant Editors – Original Series
Jeb Woodard Group Editor – Collected Editions **Scott Nybakken** Editor – Collected Edition
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JSA BY GEOFF JOHNS BOOK TWO

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DC COMICS
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THE SLAB.

CELL 12573J.

99 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.

WHAM!

WHAM!

WHAM!

DAMN YOU!

I'LL *FREEZE* YOU TO THE BONE!

SORROW EVER MORE!

GEOFF JOHNS & DAVID GOYER
Writers

PHIL WINSLADE
Penciller

MIKE PERKINS
Inker

PAT PRENTICE
Letterer

JOHN KALISZ
Colorist

YOU WON'T BE FREEZING ANYTHING, *MAKENT.*

UH!

I USED TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR *OLD* MAN, TOO. THE *ORIGINAL* ICICLE DIDN'T REQUIRE SUCH HI-TECH *DISCIPLINE.*

BUT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE HE'D *FORGET* HIS PLACE. OUT THERE THE ICICLE MAY BE A WELL-KNOWN *"SUPER"* VILLAIN. BUT IN HERE--

METAHUMAN PRISONER 12573J CAMERON MAKENT A.K.A. THE ICICLE

TEMP°

100 110 MAX

--HIS *BUTT* IS *MINE!*

GOOD EVENING, *OFFICERS.*

AM I *INTERRUPTING* PLAY TIME?

WHAT THE...?

WHO THE *HELL* ARE YOU?!

MY NAME IS *JOHNNY SORROW.*

BUT LET'S MEET...

...*FACE* TO FACE.

MY GOD!

AAAIIEEE!

ARGH!

ZZZTTT

TSK. THOSE *HEAT LAMPS* MUST HAVE BEEN *QUITE* ANNOYING, CAMERON.

HE'S...HE'S *CLAWING* HIS EYES OUT!

I *DO* TEND TO HAVE THAT *EFFECT* ON PEOPLE.

WHAT DO *YOU* WANT WITH *ME?*

SHHINK

WHY, *CAMERON. ICICLE.* I THOUGHT YOU'D TREAT A *FRIEND* OF YOUR FATHER'S *BETTER* THAN THIS!

AAHHH!

NO FRIEND OF MY *FATHER'S* IS A FRIEND OF *MINE.*

YES. AN ANSWER I *SHOULD'VE* EXPECTED. UNLIKE YOU--

--I KNEW YOUR FATHER *QUITE* WELL.

AND HE *OWED* ME HIS *LIFE.*

YOUR FATHER, *JOAR MAKENT*, WAS A *BRILLIANT* MAN. BUT WHEN THE *LABOR SHORTAGE* AND THE *PREJUDICE* OF THE TIME PREVENTED HIM FROM OBTAINING *STEADY* WORK, JOAR LOOKED FOR A SHORTCUT TO WEALTH.

HE CREATED HIS *CRYOGENIC GUN.*

AND HE BECAME *THE ICICLE.*

HIS *FIRST* OUTING WAS *LESS* THAN *PERFECT.* OF *ALL* THE *JUSTICE SOCIETY MEMBERS* HE COULD HAVE RUN INTO, HE WAS FACED WITH *GREEN LANTERN.*

IN A *MAD* PANIC, JOAR RAN FOR HIS *FREEDOM.*

BUT HE DID NOT *LOOK--*

-- BEFORE HE *LEAPED.*

HE FELL *TWENTY* STORIES BELOW, INTO THE *ICY* WATERS OF GOTHAM RIVER.

AFTER A *BRIEF* SEARCH, GREEN LANTERN BELIEVED JOAR HAD *DIED.*

NO ONE COULD BE EXPOSED TO *ICE COLD* WATER FOR THAT LONG.

EXCEPT MAYBE SOMEONE WEARING A *SUIT* THAT HAD BEEN *INSULATED* TO WITHSTAND TEMPERATURES OF *100° BELOW.*

SO JOAR COULD WITH-STAND THE *COLD.*

I *KNEW* THE ICICLE WOULD BECOME IMPORTANT TO ME.

MAYBE NOT *THIS* ICICLE, I WAS *TOLD*, BUT THE *NEXT.*

YOU. SO I WAS THERE TO GIVE HIM A *HELPING HAND.*

YEARS LATER, JOAR BECAME A FATHER... AND A SINGLE MAN AGAIN.

SHE HAD DIED OF HYPOTHERMIA, FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

NO ONE KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED. EXCEPT YOUR FATHER. HE KNEW SOMEHOW YOU HAD INHERITED THE ABILITIES OF HIS GUN. YOU HAD BECOME CRYOKINETIC.

AFTER YOUR MOTHER DIED, YOUR FATHER DESERTED YOU. YOU WERE PLACED IN HOME AFTER LOVELY HOME.

AT FIRST, PEOPLE THOUGHT YOU TO BE AN ALBINO WITH YOUR WHITE SKIN AND HAIR. BUT UNLIKE TRUE ALBINOS, YOUR EYES WERE AS BLUE AS THE SKY.

HOWEVER, THAT DIDN'T STOP THE TEASING OR THE CRUELTY.

YOUR ABILITIES, HOWEVER, DID.

IT TOOK THE TOWN OVER FOUR DAYS TO CUT OUT THE LIFELESS BODIES OF THOSE BOYS.

AFTER THAT, KILLING WAS EASY FOR YOU, WASN'T IT?

YEARS LATER, YOU BECAME THE ICICLE.

THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THE VILLAIN DIDN'T NEED HIS GUN.

HE WAS ONE.

SO WHAT? YOU THINK I *OWE* YOU FOR SAVING MY DAD'S LIFE? I *BARELY* REMEMBER THE GUY. ALL I KNOW IS THAT HE *DIED* AND *DIDN'T* LEAVE ME ANYTHING IN HIS WILL.

IT ALL WENT TO MY OTHER RELATIVES... AND *FLASH*...

I'M JUST *STEALING* HIS *NAME*.

I HAVE COME MERELY TO EXTEND AN *OFFER*. TO *BECOME* THE MAN YOU NEVER KNEW.

WE HAVE SOME-THING IN *COMMON*, YOU SEE.

THIS SOME KIND OF *JOKE*?

IT'S *BLANK*, PAL.

OF *COURSE*. MY APOLOGIES. THERE...

NOW BE *QUICK*. THIS WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY *WILL NOT* LAST FOREVER.

HOW'D YOU--?

GOOD DAY, *ICICLE.*

YOU ARE BUT THE BEGINNING.

SORROW? WHERE'D HE--?

H-HELP ME...!

SAY "*HI*" TO MY *DAD* FOR ME.

SHUNK

SHUNK

SHUNK

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, *SORROW.*

MAYBE WE *DO* HAVE SOMETHING IN *COMMON.*

JOHNNY SORROW

Befallen a great injustice'

New York Harbor, Building 102

Midnight, Tomorrow

MAYBE WE DO.

New

Befallen a great injustice'

JSA #16 cover by

ALAN DAVIS
& MARK FARMER

BURNS, OREGON.
8:34 AM.

DINER

WELDON HEMMINGS IS 54 YEARS OLD. HE'S BEEN COMING TO THE SANDHILL DINER ON HIGHWAY 26 FOR GOING ON THIRTY YEARS NOW.

ON A TYPICAL DAY, HE'LL ORDER JUDY'S SPECIAL-- TWO POACHED EGGS, BACON, HASH BROWNS, COFFEE.

BUT TODAY ISN'T A TYPICAL DAY.

TODAY IS THE DAY WELDON HEMMINGS WILL BE EXECUTED.

HIS ONLY CRIME? OCCUPYING THE WRONG LONGITUDINAL AND LATITUDINAL POINT AT THE WRONG TIME.

[redacted]

DAYS LATER, THE OREGON STATE POLICE WILL STILL BE FINDING PIECES OF HEMMINGS' BODY SCATTERED AS FAR WEST AS HAMPTON AND LA PINE.

KETCHAM, IDAHO. 8:36 AM

THE SAME COULD BE SAID FOR MONICA GILMORE--

THEDFORD, NEBRASKA. 8:39 AM

--OR DALE SHEPPARD--

GALESBURG, ILLINOIS. 8:42 AM

--OR JOSH DICKERSON.

SOMETHING HIT THESE PEOPLE HARD, KILLING THEM INSTANTLY.

SOMETHING MOVING FASTER THAN MACH 10.

INJUSTICE BE DONE part I DIVIDE AND CONQUER

GOYER & JOHNS
WRITERS

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TOMASI
EDITOR

MANHATTAN, AN EXCLUSIVE TRATTORIA ON THE UPPER WEST SIDE. 1:17 PM.

THE OCCASION? A FIRST DATE WITH DINAH LANCE AND PIETER CROSS, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS BLACK CANARY AND DR. MID-NITE.

SO YOU WERE BORN IN NORWAY?

TRONDHEIM, NORTH OF OSLO. BUT I WAS EDUCATED AT HARVARD.

AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN--

RUNNING AROUND IN A CAPE AND COWL? JUST A YEAR OR SO NOW. I WAS IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT. LOST NEARLY ALL OF MY PRIMARY VISION--

IT MUST'VE BEEN DIFFICULT.

IT WAS. A WOMAN IN THE OTHER CAR DIED. I DREAM ABOUT HER SOMETIMES. I CAN STILL SEE HER FACE, ILLUMINATED IN MY HEADLIGHTS--

ENJOYING YOUR LUNCH?

HOW'S OLLIE, BY THE WAY? STILL DEAD?

EXCUSE ME?

I THINK YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH--

PLEASE, DINAH. OLIVER QUEEN. THE GREEN ARROW. NO SENSE IN BEING COY. I KNOW THE TWO OF YOU USED TO SHARE A BED.

ON THE CONTRARY, DR. CROSS, I'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN. OR SHOULD I CALL YOU BY YOUR NOM DE GUERRE--

DO WE KNOW YOU?

--MID-NITE?

DINAH DOES. MY GIVEN NAME IS WERNER. I SPENT A NUMBER OF YEARS IN PRISON, THANKS TO HER. THINGS HAPPENED TO ME THERE.

BAD THINGS.

AND NOW IT'S PAYBACK TIME, COURTESY OF--

--COUNT VERTIGO!

SOHO. 1:23 PM.

SAND AND TED (WILDCAT) GRANT ENJOY A RARE AFTERNOON OFF.

Starlet

STARLET

RAGING BULL
ONE WEEK ONLY

GOD I LOVE THIS FLICK.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

SIX OR SEVEN.

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE MR. MOVIE FONE OR SOMETHING? CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MISSED OUT ON THIS ONE. SCORSESE. DENIRO.

WITH FIFTY ODD YEARS SPENT IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION, I'VE MISSED MORE THAN A FEW.

GOT ANY MORE MILK DUDS?

HEY, YOU TWO WANT TO KEEP IT DOWN? TRYING TO WATCH THE MOVIE HERE.

WHY DON'T YOU GET YOUR PAWS OFF ME AND MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

EASY, TED--

YOU TAKE IT EASY. IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS SITTING HERE JAWING ON MY CELL PHONE.

CAN'T A GUY MAKE ONE STUPID COMMENT WITHOUT THE MOVIE POLICE COMING IN AND BUSTING HIS CHOPS?

JUST SIT YOUR BUTT BACK DOWN.

OR WHAT?

OR WE'LL KNOCK YOU SIX WAYS TO SUNDAY.

ON SECOND THOUGHT, THINK WE'LL DO IT ANYWAY--

GEOMANCER!!!

AND KILLER WASP. MISS US?

JSA HEADQUARTERS.
1:27 PM.

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT *TROUBLE*--

IN THE LAST HOUR, OVER *EIGHTY* PEOPLE HAVE BEEN *MURDERED*, LITERALLY *TORN APART* BY SOMEONE MOVING AT SPEEDS IN EXCESS OF TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND MILES AN HOUR.

THE *D.E.O.* MANAGED TO SNAG A *BIO-SIGNATURE*, BUT IT DOESN'T MATCH ANY OF THE *REGISTERED* SPEEDSTERS, CRIMINAL OR OTHERWISE.

THEN *WHO*--?

I *THINK* OUR MYSTERY SPEEDSTER IS TRYING TO *TELL* US. IT SEEMS THESE MURDERS AREN'T *RANDOM*, AT LEAST NOT IN TERMS OF THEIR *LOCATION*--

--IF YOU *CONNECT* THE DOTS, THEY SPELL OUT A *NAME*--

--EDWARD CLARISS.

HE WAS MY CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR BACK AT MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY.

IN '49 HE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO DUPLICATE THE HARD WATER FORMULA THAT GAVE ME MY SUPER SPEED.

"FOR A BRIEF PERIOD OF TIME, HE TOOK ON THE IDENTITY OF RIVAL--A KIND OF REVERSE-FLASH, HELL-BENT ON DESTROYING ME. THERE WAS SOME QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT HE'D DISCOVERED MY SECRET IDENTITY.

"FORTUNATELY, THE EFFECTS OF THE FORMULA WORE OFF AND I MANAGED TO STOP HIM.

"THEN, MONTHS LATER, I HEARD HIS SPEED MANIFESTED ITSELF AGAIN. HE BROKE OUT OF PRISON.

"I TRIED TO HUNT HIM DOWN BUT HIS BODY KEPT ON ACCELERATING, FASTER AND FASTER--

"I COULDN'T KEEP UP. SOMEHOW, THE SPEED FORCE--

"HE LITERALLY RAN HIMSELF OUT OF EXISTENCE.

JSA

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE HE MANAGED TO FIND HIS WAY BACK.

IT GETS WORSE--

OUR FRIEND HASN'T QUITE FINISHED SPELLING OUT HIS NAME.

BASED ON THE OTHER MURDERS, IT'S FAIRLY EASY TO EXTRAPOLATE WHERE HE'LL STRIKE NEXT--

--RIGHT HERE IN KEYSTONE CITY.

I CHECKED THE LONGITUDE AND LATITUDE, JAY. YOUR HOUSE IS GROUND ZERO.

MY GOD, HE'S GOING AFTER JOAN--

BEEP BEEP BEEP

JAY, WAIT--!

FW

OOSH

NOW WHAT?

THAT WAS CANARY ON COM-LINK. COUNT VERTIGO JUST ATTACKED HER AND MID-NITE. APPARENTLY HE KNEW THEIR SECRET IDENTITIES--

BEEP BEEP BEEP

HOLD ON, I'VE GOT SAND CALLING IN TOO, NOW--

--KILLER WASP AND GEOMANCER HAVE--;CRACKLE; ;CRACKLE;

DAMMIT-- LOST THE SIGNAL--

VERTIGO, WASP, GEOMANCER-- THEY WERE WORKING FOR JOHNNY SORROW A FEW MONTHS BACK. THESE CAN'T BE RANDOM ATTACKS--

THEY'RE NOT.

THEY'RE ALL PART OF A COORDINATED ASSAULT.

A GIFT FROM THE NEW INJUSTICE SOCIETY. I THINK YOU KNOW ME. MEET THE LADIES, TIGRESS AND SHIV.

YOU GOT THE BETTER OF ME LAST TIME, COURTNEY. YOU WON'T AGAIN.

PERIMETER DEFENSES DEACTIVATED.

ANTI-PERSONNEL AND THREAT ASSESSMENT SENSORS DEACTIVATED.

HOW DID YOU--?

I LET THEM IN.

MY CORPOREAL FORM EXPIRED A FEW MONTHS BACK--BUT MY CONSCIOUSNESS, WELL YOU MIGHT SAY IT LIVES ON--

--FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EMBEDDED WITHIN THE WALLS OF YOUR HEADQUARTERS. A KIND OF VIRAL TROJAN HORSE, IF YOU WILL.

I'VE BEEN WATCHING FOR MONTHS, MAKING MYSELF PRIVY TO YOUR SECRETS. YOUR CIVILIAN IDENTITIES. YOUR HABITS. EVEN YOUR SOCIAL CALENDARS.

I BELIEVE YOU USED TO KNOW ME AS CLIFF DEVOE, THE THINKER.

THE REST OF YOU--GET BACK!!!

NICE TRY, SENTINEL, BUT WE ALL KNOW ABOUT YOUR WEAKNESS TO WOOD--

TINK TINK TINK TINK

FWIP

--ESPECIALLY A SHAFT OF OAK TAKEN FROM BLACKBRIAR THORN!

--UNHHN!

SHUNK

ALAN!

KRIK!K

KRIKAKAK

STUPID MAN.

ARGHH!

STUPID DEAD MAN.

WILDCAT SHOULD HAVE BURNED EVERY LAST PIECE OF MY BEING RATHER THAN PUT ME ON DISPLAY.

I LAY DORMANT UNTIL THE TIME WAS RIGHT FOR US TO STRIKE AGAIN. NOW YOUR STRONGEST IS DYING.

NO!

KRAKK

AAH.

SHUNK

T

HE'S GOTTA BE OKAY--

YOU BETTER STOP WORRYING ABOUT HIM, COURTNEY, AND START WORRYING ABOUT YOURSELF!

HAWKGIRL! KID! FALL BACK, NOW!!!

--WHAT--?!

HE'S A HOLOGRAM.

INDEED. THINK OF ME AS THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE OZ, IF YOU LIKE--

--SHUTTING MY EMERALD CITY DOWN.

HIDING BEHIND DOORS? PLEASE.

DOOR SECURE. NOW --

NO ONE IS GETTING OUT. NO ONE IS GETTING IN.

WHAM

SECURITY BARRICADES ARE IN PLACE.

WHAM

KAZZZT

ELECTRICAL CAPTURE FIELDS FUNCTIONAL.

THIS BUILDING WILL BE YOUR TOMB.

I'VE GOT TO GET ALAN TO THE SAFE ROOM.

HAWKGIRL, TAKE THE KID AND--

THOOOM

--PRAY!

CLOSE SESAME.

CLANG

HANG IN THERE, ALAN.

NEED TO OPERATE FAST--

HMM. HAVING DIFFICULTY OVERRIDING THE SYSTEMS HERE--

THAT'S BECAUSE I JUST CUT OFF YOUR ACCESS. THIS ROOM IS NO LONGER CONNECTED TO THE BUILDING'S CENTRAL SYSTEMS.

--MY BREATH? IT'S GETTING--

IN LESS THAN TWENTY MINUTES, THE ICICLE CAN EASILY LOWER THE TEMPERATURE OF THIS ROOM TO A HUNDRED BELOW ZERO.

IN COMPUTER PARLANCE, IT'S CALLED A *FIREWALL*, THINKER. ANY WELL-DESIGNED LOCAL AREA NETWORK HAS ONE. THEY'RE USED TO *PROTECT* US FROM VIRUSES LIKE *YOURSELF*.

COLDER.

SSSSSHHHH

YOU MAY HAVE TEMPORARILY PREVENTED US FROM GAINING ACCESS, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU UNTOUCHABLE

UNCOMFORTABLE BY HUMAN STANDARDS, MICHAEL HOLT.

AND ALTHOUGH YOU HEROES LIKE TO THINK DIFFERENTLY, YOU ARE ALL HUMAN.

KEYSTONE CITY, OHIO.

FOR JOAN GARRICK, TODAY COULDN'T BE ANY BRIGHTER. HER HUSBAND IS DUE HOME SOON. FRESH BREAD IS IN THE OVEN. SHE JUST HOPES HE REMEMBERS TO PICK UP MILK.

SOON SHE THINKS. HE'LL BE HOME SOON.

MINUTES.

SECONDS.

JAY?

KRAKOOM

IF RIVAL WASN'T ALREADY TRAVELING A HUNDRED TIMES THE SPEED OF SOUND HE WOULD HEAR THE THUNDEROUS FOOTSTEPS BEHIND HIM.

VWWWWPP

BEFORE JOAN TAKES IN ANOTHER BREATH, RIVAL AND THE FLASH WILL BE OVER FOUR HUNDRED MILES AWAY.

CLARISS!

FOR FIFTY YEARS I'VE BEEN TRAPPED IN THE SPEED FORCE--

-- THEN SORROW FREED ME, ASKING ONLY ONE THING IN RETURN.

YOUR HEAD.

DINE AND DASH.

MY BLACKOUT BOMBS WILL GIVE US COVER TO SUIT UP. GOT YOUR GEAR?

NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT.

I KNOW YOU WANTED A QUIET NIGHT, DINAH. I'M SORRY--

FSSS

WHAT FUN.

NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE. YOU'VE BEEN A PERFECT GENTLEMAN, DR. CROSS. AND DINNER WAS...

...WAIT A MINUTE! YOU CAN SEE IN THE DARK. YOU'RE NOT PEEKING, ARE YOU?

I STILL CAN'T GET THROUGH TO TERRIFIC. SOMETHING'S WRONG.

KRAKKLE

TAKE CARE OF WASP, WILDCAT. GEOMANCER'S MINE!

BEEN LOOKIN' TO TEACH THIS PUNK ANOTHER LESSON.

SORROW TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR NEW TRICKS, SAND. HONING YOUR POWERS AND ALL THAT.

EVEN CONTROLLING THE MOLECULES OF SILICA THAT MAKE UP YOUR COSTUME.

BUT YOU'RE STILL A LOSER.

STICKS AND STONES.

AAAHH!

SHAA

THUNK

KRAKAKOOM

WHOOPS. WRONG GUN.

I'LL BURY YOU!

STOP IT!

THESE PEOPLE HAVE *NOTHIN'* TO DO WITH YOU AND ME!

KAZZLTT

WHAT'S YOUR BEEF ANYWAY, KID?

INJUSTICE, WILDCAT. REVENGE. RIGHTING A WRONG.

YOU *MURDERED* MY FATHER, *CHAMP.*

I WHAT--?!

SHRAKAKAZZL

WHAM

WHUMP

=UFF!=

HELLO, LITTLE MAN.

SKRRIIIITCH

BLACK ADAM!?

UH, OH.

SORROW SENDS HIS REGARDS.

KRAK

ELSEWHERE. THE HOME OF LOUIS SENDAK, ONCE THE HERO KNOWN AS SCARAB.

PLEASE, SORROW... STOP THIS MADNESS

IT'S NOT MADNESS, IT'S JUSTICE.

YOU CAN'T DO THIS.

I'M AFRAID WE'RE WELL ON OUR WAY, LOUIS. THE JSA IS INDISPOSED.

AND I COULDN'T HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THIS WITHOUT YOU. REMEMBER THAT.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UNLEASHING HERE. THE KING OF TEARS WILL NEVER LET YOU RULE THE WORLD!

--EVERYONE ON THIS WRETCHED PLANET IS GOING TO DIE.

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT RULING THIS PITIFUL PLACE, OLD MAN?

SIMPLY PUT--

NEXT ISSUE:

THE KING OF TEARS

JSA #17 cover by
ALAN DAVIS
& MARK FARMER

MY HANDS ARE **NUMB** AND IT'S GETTING **COLDER**. BUT I HAVE TO **BLOCK** IT OUT. BLOCK **EVERYTHING** OUT.

THE BIG GUN OF THE JSA, **SENTINEL**, JUST GOT HIS CHEST RIPPED APART. HE'S GONE INTO SHOCK AND HE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD. WE'RE LUCKY HE ISN'T ALREADY **DEAD**.

BUT I'M A **QUICK** READER. I'LL FIGURE IT OUT. THAT'S WHAT I **DO**.

IT'S **MY** JOB TO GET HIS OXYGEN-STARVED PUMPER UP AND RUNNING AGAIN. DR. MIDNITE'S BOOK ON TMR IS HELPFUL. IT'S MY ONLY OPTION OTHER THAN CARDIOPULMONARY BYPASS SURGERY. DAMN **THICK** BOOK.

THEY CALL ME **MR. TERRIFIC**.

INJUSTICE BE DONE part 2

COLD COMFORT

GOYER & JOHNS
WRITERS

SADOWSKI
PENCILLER

BAIR
INKER

LOPEZ
LETTERER

KALISZ
COLORIST

HEROIC AGE
SEPARATOR

WILLIAMS
ASSISTANT ED.

TOMASI
EDITOR

TRANSMYOCARDIAL REVASULARIZATION? AN INTERESTING PROCEDURE, MICHAEL. BUT VERY **RISKY** WHEN PERFORMED BY SOMEONE WHO'S HANDS ARE **FROSTBITTEN** AND **UNSTEADY**.

BY MY CALCULATIONS, ALAN SCOTT HAS LESS OF A CHANCE OF SURVIVING THAN YOUR **FRIENDS**.

THANKS TO THE CAMERAS IN YOUR **T-SPHERES**, WHICH ARE NOW UNDER MY CONTROL, I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF **RECORDING** THEIR **DEATHS**.

YOUR FLUSTERING CHAIRMAN, SAND, HAS BEEN BESIEGED BY GEOMANCER AND KILLER WASP--

--WHILE BLACK ADAM IS, NO DOUBT, BUSY DELETING ALL OF WILDCAT'S REMAINING LIVES.

NEW YORK CITY.

JAY GARRICK HAS CIRCLED THE GLOBE A DOZEN TIMES OVER, LOCKED IN COMBAT WITH RIVAL.

SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS.

COUNT VERTIGO HAS KEPT THE JSA'S LOVEBIRDS, BLACK CANARY AND DR MID-NITE, OFF BALANCE.

HAWKGIRL AND THE STAR-SPANGLED KID ARE DESPERATE TO FIND A WAY OUT OF YOUR HEADQUARTERS. BUT I ASSURE YOU, THERE IS NONE.

YOUR TEAMMATES' HEADS WILL SOON BE MOUNTED ON JOHNNY SORROW'S LIVING ROOM WALL, COURTESY OF TIGRESS AND SHIV.

NEW YORK CITY.

MY PROGRAMMING HAS TAKEN EVERYTHING INTO ACCOUNT. I THANK YOU FOR THAT, MICHAEL HOLT.

JSA HQ, ATRIUM.

AND I AM AFRAID IF ICICLE'S THERMAL TALENT DOES NOT INDUCE HYPOTHERMIA SOON--

--BLACKBRIAR THORN'S VINES WILL FIND THEIR WAY INTO YOUR SKULL AND TAKE ROOT IN THAT PRECIOUS BRAIN OF YOURS.

A GENIUS LEVEL IQ BY HUMAN STANDARDS. IT WOULD TAKE AN EXTREME LEVEL OF INTELLIGENCE TO TRANSFER MY ESSENCE FROM THE THINKER'S CAP AND BODY INTO YOUR HEADQUARTERS SECURITY SYSTEMS.

ANOTHER MISTAKE, MICHAEL HOLT.

AND ANOTHER THANK-YOU FROM THE THINKER--

--AND THE INJUSTICE SOCIETY.

JSA HQ, INFIRMARY ENTRANCE.

EVEN THE ROOF EXITS ARE SEALED OFF. WE'RE SUNK, KID.

IF I CAN JUST FIND THE POWER SUPPLY, KENDRA, MAYBE I CAN CUT THE--

HEY, STARS!

NO ROBOTS TO HELP YOU NOW!

WHAK

ZAM

POOM

WINGED WONDER IS MINE.

IS THE BRAT DEAD YET?

SHE WILL BE.

CANARY AND MID-NITE.

COWARDS! WHERE ARE YOU?!

HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?

ASIDE FROM THROWING UP ON MY DATE? NEVER BETTER--

WHAT NOW, DR. FEELGOOD?

DIAZEPAM, MECLIZINE. SHOULD CUT DOWN ON THE VERTIGO AND NAUSEA. KEEP YOUR EYES **OPEN**, FIXED ON A STATIONARY OBJECT.

BUT--

LOOK AT MY **FACE**, DINAH.

JUST TELL ME ABOUT THE COUNT. SUFFERS FROM AN **INNER-EAR DISORDER**, RIGHT? DO YOU KNOW IF IT'S **HEREDITARY** OR WAS IT CAUSED BY SOME KIND OF **HEAD INJURY**?

HEREDITARY, I **THINK**--

PROBABLY **MENIERE'S DISEASE**, THEN. ENDOLYMPHATIC HYDROPS--

--WHICH MEANS HE'S USING COCHLEAR IMPLANT HEARING AIDS.

TRY TO KEEP HIM **DISTRACTED** FOR A FEW SECONDS. I'LL SEE IF I CAN'T OVERRIDE THE MICROPROCESSORS IN HIS IMPLANTS.

VERTIGO!

SO YOU'RE *MAD* AT ME BECAUSE YOU DID *TIME?* WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? YOU BROKE THE LAW!

I WAS JUST DOING MY *JOB.* YOU WANT *REVENGE,* GO SEE THE *SPECTRE.* HE TOOK OUT YOUR WHOLE *COUNTRY!*

THE SPECTRE I KNEW IS *GONE.* GREEN ARROW IS *DEAD.*

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE *LEFT,* CANARY, ASIDE FROM THAT HARRIDAN *AMANDA WALLER* AND HER DAMNABLE *SUICIDE SQUAD.*

VWWW

THIS IS THEIR TENTH TIME THROUGH NEW ORLEANS.

THEIR FIFTEENTH TIME ACROSS AMERICA.

AND JAY IS ONLY TWO STEPS BEHIND RIVAL.

BUT EVEN THOSE TWO STEPS PREVENT THE FLASH FROM SAVING A YOUNG BOY.

NOO!!!

JAY VOWS TO HIMSELF THAT NO ONE ELSE WILL DIE TODAY.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, EDWARD? WHY KILL INNOCENTS?

NO ONE IS INNOCENT, JAY. LEAST OF ALL YOU.

YOU LEFT ME TRAPPED IN THE SPEED FORCE. BUT MY POWERS WERE TEMPORARY, DAMN YOU. WHEN THEY DISAPPEARED... THE FORCE ATE ME ALIVE.

SLICE

YOU FORGOT ABOUT ME, JAY, BUT I NEVER FORGOT YOU.

JAY'S WORN HIS HELMET FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS. AND IT'S NEVER GOTTEN MUCH MORE THAN A SCRATCH.

NOW IT'S GONE. AND THE SIGHT SCARES THE FLASH FOR HE KNOWS...

...THAT THEY ARE WALKING THE EDGE OF A CLIFF HE CAN NEVER CLIMB BACK UP.

THE SPEED FORCE. THE GREAT BEYOND THAT BLESSES THE SPEEDSTERS WITH POWER.

GOODBYE, JAY.

NOO! YOU CAN'T!

YOU CAAAANN'T...

I CAN.

AND I DID.

WHOOSHH

JOAN.

...OH, NO.

I HATE THESE LATE SHIFTS.

QUIT YOUR COMPLAININ', CHRIS. WE'RE GETTING TIME AND A HALF HERE.

HEY. WHERE ARE ALL THOSE RATS GOIN'?

KRRKKKKK

KRAKOOOM

WHAT TH--?

WHERE'S WILDCAT?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE "CHAMPION", SAND. WORRY ABOUT US!

SPLASH

MY TEAMMATES ARE MY CONCERN, KILLER WASP.

YOU--

SKRAKK

--AREN'T!

HUH?

KOOM

HNH!

...

WASP...?

BUCKLE UP, DIRTBAG.

SPLOOSH

KRAK

TWAK

WHAK

WE'RE GOIN' FOR A RIDE.

WHAKOOM

LIKE A BABY..

NOW WHERE IN THE HELL DID WILDCAT SCAMPER OFF TO?

WHAT--?

WHERE THE--?!!!

WE ARE NOW APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND FEET ABOVE SEA-LEVEL. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE HERE.

IF WE REMAIN YOU WILL QUICKLY FREEZE TO DEATH.

IF WE ASCEND HIGHER STILL, YOU WILL ASPHYXIATE.

IF I DROP YOU--

I GET THE POINT, CHUCKLES. MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS. SO WHAT?

SO THIS--I HAVE BEEN ALIVE FOR 3200 YEARS. YET MY LENGTHY SOJOURN ON THIS PLANET HAS MADE ME NO LESS FEARFUL OF DEATH.

WHEN JOHNNY SORROW OFFERED TO REMOVE THE MALIGNANT TUMOR INSIDE MY HEAD I LEAPT AT THE CHANCE.

I PLEDGED MY SERVITUDE TO SORROW IN EXCHANGE FOR MY LIFE.

WHAT ARE YOU PREPARED TO OFFER FOR YOURS?

KRAK

YAA!

I CAN TASTE YOUR FEAR, KENDRA. YOUR SWEAT IS FULL OF IT.

UNN!

WHAK

YOU'VE GOT KILLER INSTINCTS. BUT WHAT ARE YOU HIDING--

--BEHIND THAT MASK?

NNN.

THE BASEMENT.

I SEE YOU'VE ALREADY "SHUT DOWN" THE ELECTRICITY IN HERE WITH YOUR CUTE LITTLE *SHOOTING STARS*, BLONDIE.

BUT *HIDING* WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD.

...WHERE ARE YOU?

WHEN YOU AND THAT KNIGHT SLAYED MY *FATHER* I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO. HE WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT EVER *LOVED* ME. THE WAY A FATHER *SHOULD*.

BUT I FOUND A *NEW* FAMILY. SISTERS AND BROTHERS. A NEW *FATHER*.

AND AFTER WE'RE *THROUGH* WITH THE JSA, SORROW'S PROMISED ME A TRIP BACK TO BLUE VALLEY--

--WHERE I'LL TEAR *S.T.R.I.P.E.* APART AND FEED HIM PIECE BY PIECE TO PAT.

CINDY.

I'M SORRY.

WHAMM

KRANKK

YOU DO!

YOU NEED HELP.

NO... I DON'T.

KRAK

KZZZT

=UHH!=

THE COMPUTER CONTROL ROOM! GOTTA *REBOOT* THE SECURITY SYSTEM AND GET US THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

CAN'T BE MUCH MORE THAN HITTING CONTROL, ALT AND DELETE.

I WOULD NOT TAKE ANOTHER STEP IF I WERE YOU, CHILD.

THE THINKER: BUILDING SYSTEMS CONTROL

...I HOPE.

THE THINKER: BUILDING SYSTEMS CONTROL

KRUNK

YOU DON'T *SCARE* ME.

WHUMP

SMASH

IT'S STRANGE WHAT GOES THROUGH YOUR HEAD WHEN YOU'RE DYING.

YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE FLASHING ON LOVED ONES, THE LIFE YOU'VE LED UP UNTIL NOW--

THE LIVES YOU'VE LED UP UNTIL NOW.

LAST WORDS, BIRDIE. SMOKE 'EM IF YOU GOT 'EM.

THEY WASH OVER KENDRA IN A TIDAL WAVE--MEMORIES. OTHER TIMES, OTHER PLACES.

DROWNING OUT TIGRESS' WORDS!

DROWNING OUT EVERYTHING.

WHAT--?!

KABOOM

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!

TERRIFIC HAS JUST MANAGED TO **STABILIZE** SENTINEL WHEN HE NOTICES THAT THE AWFUL **POUNDING** HAS ABRUPTLY--

--STOPPED?

BAM BAM BAM BA

WHABOOM

STAR--?!

HOW?

DON'T SWEAT IT, T. THINKER'S **OFF-LINE** AND THESE LOSERS ARE **HISTORY.**

FINALLY GOT A **CLUE**--ZAPPED SOME SHOOTING STARS INTO THEIR HEADS AND **SHORT-CIRCUITED** THEIR SYNAPSES. COOL, HUH?

-- CAN'T HEAR-- PLEASE--

FSSSSS

SAND! WHERE'S WILDCAT?

MIA. WHAT ABOUT *VERTIGO*? DID YOU GET HIM TO *SQUEAL*?

WITH A LITTLE *PHARMACEUTICAL* HELP. HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT JOHNNY SORROW TRYING TO *UNLEASH* THE *KING OF TEARS*--

HE GIVE YOU A *LOCATION*?

THE HOME OF *LOUIS SENDAK*. CANARY TELLS ME HE *USED* TO BE THE *SCARAB*--

SAND, WHAT'S GOING *ON*? WHO *IS* THE KING OF TEARS?

A *NIGHTMARE* WE THOUGHT WE PUT TO REST A *LONG* TIME AGO. THIS IS *BAD*. IF JOHNNY SORROW'S FIGURED OUT A WAY TO *FREE* THE KING, WE DON'T HAVE A *SECOND* TO LOSE.

WE NEED TO *GO*. *NOW*. THESE ATTACKS-- THIS *WHOLE* ASSAULT'S BEEN ONE BIG SET OF *MISDIRECTION*.

WHAT ABOUT *SENTINEL* AND THE *OTHERS*? SHOULDN'T WE--?

DAMMIT, MID-NITE! I SAID THERE'S *NO TIME*! NOW *HURRY*!

I'LL MEET--

--YOU--

--THERE!

FSSSSS

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER. KINGSTON, NEW YORK.

ANY LUCK REACHING HQ?

STILL NO WORD FROM THE OTHERS.

THEN WE'RE ON OUR OWN. BRACE YOURSELVES, BOTH OF YOU.

SENDAK'S HOUSE MAY LOOK NORMAN ROCKWELL ON THE OUTSIDE--

KKRRAKAK

--BUT THE INSIDE'S STRICTLY DALI AND DUCHAMP!

WHAT THE--?

IT'S SOME KIND OF DIMENSIONAL GATEWAY. BACK IN THE '40S, SCARAB CALLED IT A DOORWAY TO THE SUBTLE REALMS.

LOUIS? ARE YOU HERE?!

DEAR MR. SENDAK IS INDISPOSED AT THE MOMENT--

--BUT I WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE YOU.

SORROW!

AH, SANDERSON. THE DECADES HAVE TREATED YOU WELL. ALL GRIM AND GROWN UP, ARE WE? NO LONGER WESLEY DODDS' GOLDEN BOY, I SEE.

DO YOUR BEST, THEN. IT WON'T MATTER. I'VE WAITED FIFTY-SIX YEARS TO EXACT MY REVENGE ON THE JSA.

CAREFUL, HE'S--

MID-NITE, WAIT! HIS MASK--

DON'T LET HIM *SHOW* YOU HIS--

--FACE-

OH--

--NNNNNNNNN--

FWUMP

TO PARAPHRASE SOCRATES-- "I WAS AFRAID THAT BY OBSERVING OBJECTS WITH MY EYES AND TRYING TO COMPREHEND THEM--

"I MIGHT BLIND MY SOUL ALTOGETHER."

WHY, OF COURSE HE IS, DEAR. AND THE REST OF YOU WILL QUICKLY FOLLOW!

MID-NITE!!!

HE'S DEAD!

HAHAHAHA HAHAHAHA!

NEXT ISSUE:
SORROW'S STORY

JSA #18 cover by

ALAN DAVIS
& MARK FARMER

THE LABYRINTH, PANDIMENSIONAL CROSSROADS TO THE SUBTLE REALMS.

HOME TO LOUIS SENDAK, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE SCARAB.

NOW, ARGUABLY, THE SITE OF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY'S LAST STAND.

I'VE WAITED OVER HALF A CENTURY FOR THIS MOMENT, SAND. WATCHING FROM THE SIDELINES, ORCHESTRATING THE KING OF TEARS' RETURN--

NNNNHHHHH...

AND POOR MR. SENDAK HERE-- A MERE HUSK OF THE HERO HE USED TO BE--

--HIS BODY WILL BE THE DOORWAY THROUGH WHICH THE KING ENTERS.

HE REMEMBERS A SIMPLER TIME--

SAND STIFFENS, GASPS. AND AS THE BLINDING LIGHT THREATENS TO BURN OUT HIS CORNEAS--

BACK WHEN HE WAS SANDY THE GOLDEN BOY--

--BACK WHEN JOHNNY SORROW WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A COSTUMED CROOK WITH A GIMMICK.

OPAL CITY, 1944.

SORROW HAD BEEN A SILENT FILM STAR. PUT OUT TO PASTURE WHEN THE TALKIES STORMED THE MOVIE PALACES OF OLD.

SINCE THE DAYS OF THE SILVER SCREEN HE'D TURNED TO CRIME, ASSAILING STARMAN AND OTHERS WITH A SERIES OF INCREASINGLY BAROQUE SCHEMES...

FOOLS! WITH THE SUBSPACE PROTOTYPE AT MY DISPOSAL, I'M UNBEATABLE NOW!

SUBSPACE?

DIMENSIONAL SHORTCUTS. THAT VEST HE STOLE FROM THE LIGHT ALLOWS HIM TO PHASE IN AND OUT OF OUR WORLD AT WILL!

INJUSTICE BE DONE part 3

SORROW'S STORY

DAVID GOYER & GEOFF JOHNS
WRITERS

STEVE YEOWELL & STEPHEN SADOWSKI
PENCILLERS

MICHAEL BAIR
INKER

KEN LOPEZ
LETTERER

JOHN KALISZ
COLORIST

HEROIC AGE
SEPARATOR

PETER TOMASI
EDITOR

UNNARHHH--

--NOW YOU DON'T!

KZZZAKK

DON'T GLORIFY HIM, STARMAN. POWERS OR NOT, HE'S STILL JUST A THIEF!

AND THIEVES ARE MEANT TO BE--

DAMNIT!

NOW YOU SEE ME--

TAKE COVER, SANDY!

I WANT YOU OUT OF HERE, NOW!

KZZZAAKK

"TAKE COVER," HE SAYS. NOT ON YOUR LIFE, WESLEY.

I'M SANDY THE GOLDEN BOY. NOTHING CAN TOUCH ME!

THAT GLOW OF HIS-- IT SEEMS TO FADE RIGHT BEFORE HE PHASES BACK IN.

CAREFUL--

--GOTTA TIME THIS RIGHT--

--NOW!!!

FZZZINGG

WHA--?!

PCHUNK

WHAT DID YOU DO?!

HELP ME! PLEASE, GOD, IT HURTS--

NOOO

SIX MONTHS LATER.

THE NIGHTMARES HAVE BEEN PLAGUING SANDY EVER SINCE THAT FATEFUL DAY.

HELLO, SANDY. IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN--

WHA--

--SO AWFULLY, TERRIBLY GOOD.

FWAP

CHICAGO.

TODD BR WN NGS FREAKS

TIME TO WAKE UP, MY FAIR-HAIRED CHILD--

--THE SHOW'S JUST ABOUT TO BEGIN.

MY COSTUME-- WHAT--?

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF DRESSING YOU. I WANTED YOU HERE IN YOUR OFFICIAL CAPACITY.

I WANTED THE GOLDEN BOY.

NOW. EYES FRONT AND CENTER. THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO SEE--

THEY WERE KNOWN AS THE *SEVEN SHADOWS*--A LOOSE AFFILIATION OF SECOND-TIER *MYSTERY MEN* WHO PROTECTED THE WINDY CITY FROM ALL THINGS PROFANE.

A-ARE THEY--?

DEAD? *QUITE.*

ALL EXCEPT FOR THAT INFERNAL SCARAB. I SENT THE POOR MAN PACKING WITH HIS TAIL BETWEEN HIS LEGS.

WHAT *HAPPENED?* TO THEM?

WHAT *HAPPENED?* WELL, YES, THERE'S THE *RUB*, ISN'T IT?

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED, CHILD. THE TIME FOR FEAR HAS *PASSED.*

WHAT HAPPENED WAS THAT I SIMPLY *REMOVED* MY MASK.

"THE DAY YOU KILLED ME, DEAR SANDY. I FELL INTO ANOTHER WORLD."

"THERE ARE DIMENSIONS BEYOND THE ONES WE PERCEIVE--COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS THE SUBTLE REALMS."

"AND THESE REALMS--WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THEY'RE INHABITED."

"CALL THEM ENTITIES, IF YOU LIKE. SPIRITS. THINGS CAST ASIDE WHEN THE MAKER FORMALIZED HIS CREATION."

"THEY HAVE THEIR OWN GOD NOW."

"A KING OF TEARS."

"AND HE SO DESPERATELY WANTS BACK INTO OUR WORLD."

"I WAS TO BE HIS INTERCESSOR.

"THEY CRAFTED A MASK FOR ME--A KIND OF VESSEL IN WHICH TO CONTAIN MY NEWLY ALTERED FORM."

"ON EARTH THE MASK WOULD ALLOW ME TO BECOME CORPOREAL, TO MANIFEST MYSELF HERE FOR BRIEF MOMENTS--"

"AND SO THEY SENT ME BACK."

"I WENT TO SEE *ANDREA* FIRST. MY *WIFE*. MY *LIFELINE*.

"I HAUNTED HER FOR *DAYS*--FRIGHTENED, TENTATIVE. THEN I MADE MY *PRESENCE* KNOWN."

"I DID NOT YET FULLY COMPREHEND WHAT HAD *HAPPENED* TO ME."

"WHAT I HAD *BECOME*."

"IN MY *ENTHUSIASM*, I REMOVED MY MASK--

"--AND WHAT WAS *HIDDEN* BECAME *VISIBLE*."

"MY *NEW* FORM, IN ITS *ENTIRETY*."

"THE *TRUE* FACE OF *SORROW*."

"IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT AT *FIFTY*, WE ALL HAVE THE FACE WE *DESERVE*--

--BUT I ASK YOU, DEAR SANDY. DID I *DESERVE* THIS?

IS WHAT YOU DID TO ME TRULY *JUSTICE?*

I-I'M SORRY--

YOU *SHOULD* BE. I *DIED* BECAUSE OF YOU. MY *WIFE* DIED.

ALL THE WORLD IS A STAGE. *MY* STAGE. AND THIS WILL BE ITS *FINAL* PERFORMANCE--

ENOUGH *CHATTER,* SORROW.

KRAKK

UUH!

TIME FOR BATTLE!

SANDY!

W-WES?

SHARD, DR. NOWHERE, THE VEIL.

THEY WERE MY TEAMMATES. MY *FRIENDS*.

KKKRRKK

OH, COME NOW, SCARAB. YOU HEROES ARE A *DIME* A *DOZEN*.

A GOOD *VILLAIN*, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS *TERRIBLY* HARD TO FIND.

YOU *SICKEN* ME.

YOU ACT AS IF LIFE WERE A GAME.

IT IS A GIFT. ONE I WILL TAKE BACK.

I SEE I'M NOT THE ONLY THESPIAN IN THE ROOM.

I'VE GAZED INTO THE EYES OF FAR WORSE ENTITIES THAN YOURSELF, SPIRIT.

SNATCH

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THE KING OF THEM ALL--

YOUR DAYS OF WICKEDNESS ARE OVER, SORROW. YOUR BLACKENED SOUL WILL NO LONGER HAUNT THIS MORTAL PLANE.

SO SWEARS...

...THE SPECTRE!

--THE KING OF TEARS!

HE'S BEEN B-BRAGGING ABOUT THAT *THING* ALL NIGHT. DON'T LET IT GET OUT.

WE WON'T.

WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN THIS *PATH*?

LOOK AT WHAT THEY *DID* TO ME. YOU SHOULD BE PUNISHING *THEM*, NOT *ME*!

YOUR *HIDEOUS* GAZE CANNOT KILL ONE WHO IS ALREADY *DEAD*, SORROW.

ENOUGH!

THWAK

HE'S *MINE*. NOW--

GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR TEAMMATES, SCARAB.

YOU'LL BE JOINING THEM SOON ENOUGH. HA HA HA HA--!

GONE?!

SORROW MAY BE GONE, BUT HIS PET IS STILL SCRATCHING AT THE DOOR.

BY CREATING--

--A VORTEX--

--I THINK I CAN--

--KEEP IT--

FLASH

AAH!

GET THE FLASH OUT OF HERE.

SWD

FWOOOSH

UGH!

KRA-KAWW!

THAT'S OUR CUE, SHIERA.

LET'S SHOVE THIS THING BACK INTO THE DARK CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE.

CARTER, I DON'T THINK THIS IS SOMETHING WE CAN--

WHAP

MY LOVE, TOGETHER--

--WE CAN DO ANYTHING.

NO.

LET IT COME.

LET IT COME FACE ME.

ARRGHHH!!

--RRG--

SPECTRE, ARE YOU--

NO FURTHER, SCARAB. I... H-HAVE IT.

DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN--

--WHAT IS IT? NO SOUL. B-BUT SOMETHING...

SOMETHING ALIVE.

I CANNOT DESTROY IT BUT I *CAN* TRANSFORM IT. CAPTURE ITS *ESSENCE*.

GREEN LANTERN, QUICKLY. YOU MUST *CONTAIN* IT.

MY TEARS...

...GUARD *THEM* WELL.

I CANNOT.

DON'T WORRY THEY'RE IN GOOD HANDS.

SPLISH

SPECTRE, LET US HELP--

THE SPECTRE NEEDS NO *HELP*.

JUST *TIME* ALONE.

SANDY? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YEAH... OF COURSE, SANDMAN... WITH YOU AROUND--

"I'M ALWAYS ALL RIGHT."

BUT THAT WAS A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.

YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR MY PAIN, SAND. EVERYONE IS.

WELCOME TO MY NIGHTMARES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

WHAK KRAK OOM

A HUMAN SANDCASTLE AND A WOMAN WHO CAN KICK. I'D SAY YOU'RE IN FOR SOME TROUBLE.

THE KING OF TEARS HAS FINALLY TAKEN CENTER STAGE!

MY GOD, SAND...

IT'S JUST YOU AND ME NOW, CANARY.

NOW SANDY... TELL ME, MY GOLDEN BOY--

--WHERE IS YOUR PRECIOUS "SPECTRE" NOW?

NEXT ISSUE:

Into the Labyrinth!

FAIRFLY

JSA #19 cover by

ALAN DAVIS
& MARK FARMER

THE ROCK OF ETERNITY. BEYOND SPACE AND TIME.

SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT--

YOU HOUND CAPTAIN MARVEL AND THE REST OF THOSE THUNDER YAHOOS FOR GOD KNOWS HOW LONG, YOU TRASH NEW YORK CITY, YOU KICK THE SPIT OUT OF THE JSA--

--AND NOW YOU'RE LOOKING TO REFORM? FORGIVE ME IF I'M A LITTLE SKEPTICAL. WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US, ANYWAY?

I TOLD YOU BEFORE, WILDCAT-- MY ALTER EGO, THEO ADAM, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE ACTIONS. AS FAR AS WHAT I WANT, THAT CAN WAIT.

WHEN SORROW ENLISTED ME, HE ASSUMED THEO WAS STILL IN CONTROL. HE WAS MISTAKEN. I WILL NOT STAND BY AND WATCH SORROW SAVAGE THIS WORLD.

RIGHT-- SO THIS ROCK OF INFINITY PLACE--

ETERNITY. ROCK OF ETERNITY.

WHATEVER. WHY ARE WE HERE AGAIN?

THE WIZARD THAT IMBUED ME WITH THE THUNDER ABIDES WITHIN THESE WALLS. HE AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE QUINTESSENCE MONITOR THE ENTITY KNOWN AS THE SPECTRE.

MY HOPE IS THAT HE WILL CONTACT THE SPECTRE FOR US. THAT TOGETHER, YOU AND I MIGHT ENTREAT THE VENGEFUL SPIRIT TO INTERCEDE ON HUMANITY'S BEHALF.

I GOT NEWS FOR YOU, ADAM. YOU DON'T ENTREAT THE SPECTRE TO DO ANYTHING. YOU JUST STAND BACK AND TRY NOT TO SOIL YOUR PANTS WHEN HE STARES YOU DOWN.

WIZARD. WE HAVE COME TO--

I KNOW WHY YOU HAVE COME, STRIPLING. YOU SEEK TO WARN THE SPECTRE--

--BUT the Spectre ALREADY KNOWS.

INJUSTICE RE)DONE part 4 INTO THE LABYRINTH

GOYER & JOHNS	SADOWSKI	BAIR & CHAMPAGNE	LOPEZ	KALISZ	HEROIC AGE	TOMASI
WRITERS	PENCILLER	INKERS	LETTERER	COLORIST	SEPARATIONS	EDITOR

--UNH--

W-WHERE 'M I?

IN THE EYE OF THE HURRICANE--

--FRONT ROW AND CENTER FOR THE END OF THE WORLD!

DON'T EVEN BOTHER TRYING TO SHIFT INTO YOUR SILICATE STATE HERE.

WITHIN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST, YOUR TALENTS ARE USELESS.

WHERE IS-- NGHHH-- SENDAK?

SENDAK DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE. HE'S BEEN OVERWRITTEN. IMPRINTED WITH THE KING OF TEARS' ESSENCE.

YOU SEE, DEAR SANDERSON, THE ENTITIES WHICH I SERVE NEED VESSELS--TEMPLATES THROUGH WHICH TO ENTER YOUR WORLD.

AND SOON, VERY SOON NOW, THEY WON'T EVEN REQUIRE THAT.

YOU'RE INSANE--

UNDOUBTEDLY.

BUT CONSIDER THIS, SAND. BECAUSE OF YOU, I AM NO LONGER EVEN REMOTELY HUMAN. BECAUSE OF YOU MY WIFE IS--

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR WIFE, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO SIT HERE AND ARGUE SEMANTICS WITH A MADMAN. YOUR TAKE ON THE PAST IS JUST AS TWISTED AS THAT FACE OF YOURS.

YOU KILLED HER, SORROW, NOT ME. NOT THE JSA.

YOU SEALED HER FATE THE MOMENT YOU DECIDED TO TAKE UP A LIFE OF CRI--

CRAK

SHUT UP!

SHUT UP!!!

THIS IS MY MOMENT! MY HOUR TO STRUT AND FRET UPON THE STAGE!

DON'T YOU SEE THAT THE INJUSTICE SOCIETY WERE SIMPLY A MEANS TO AN END?!

DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD HAVE HELPED ME IF THEY'D KNOWN WHAT I WAS REALLY PLANNING?

"THE LABYRINTH THAT *USED* TO BE CONTAINED IN SENDAK'S HOME IS *GROWING*--

"--EXPANDING EXPONENTIALLY.

"*EATING* AWAY AT YOUR REALITY.

"STRIPPING IT BARE OF *EVERYTHING* THAT MAKES YOUR KIND *HUMAN*.

"MERE HOURS FROM NOW, IT WILL BLANKET THIS ENTIRE PLANET."

"AND WHEN IT DOES--

"--THE FLOODGATES OF HELL WILL OPEN."

COLUMBUS HOSPITAL.

WHAM

WE NEED SOME HELP HERE!

YOU. START AN I.V. TWO LITERS OF LACTATED RINGER'S OVER THE NEXT TWENTY MINUTES. TYPE AND CROSS FOR SIX UNITS OF WHOLE BLOOD--

WAIT A MINUTE!

YOU CAN'T JUST BARGE IN HERE AND--

YES I CAN. I'M JSA, SO YOU LISTEN AND YOU LISTEN CLOSELY.

IF HE DIES, YOU'RE LOOKING AT A METAHUMAN MELTDOWN THAT COULD TAKE OUT THE ENTIRE SOLAR SYSTEM.

HE TOOK A WOODEN STAKE THROUGH THE CHEST, HE'S GOT A HUNDRED PERCENT PNEUMOTHORAX ON THE RIGHT SIDE, SO YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO GET HIM ON A VENTILATOR YESTERDAY AND START PREPPING HIM FOR SURGERY. GOT IT?

WELL, I--

GOOD. DON'T SCREW THIS UP.

LET'S GO, KID. WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN HERE.

THIS MAN IS A LIVING LEGEND. POTENTIALLY, THE MOST POWERFUL HUMAN IN THE GALAXY. THE ONLY THING CONTAINING THAT GREEN FLAME LEAKING FROM HIS CHEST IS WILLPOWER, UNDERSTAND?

--COME ON, COME ON, COME ON--

BREATHE-- BREATHE!

--HUCK- KUAGGHH--

MID-NITE! OH THANK GOD! I THOUGHT YOU WERE--

DAMN CLOSE. DEFINITE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION.

YOU GIVE GOOD C.P.R., CANARY.

YEAH? WELL, YOU'RE AN IDIOT, MID-NITE. TRYING TO RUSH SORROW LIKE THAT--SAND WARNED YOU ABOUT HIS FACE.

IT WAS PART OF SAND'S GAMBIT.

BECAUSE OF MY UNIQUE OCULAR CONDITION, WE WERE HOPING I'D BE IMMUNE TO THE EFFECT OF SORROW'S GAZE.

EVER HEAR OF BLIND MAN'S BLUFF?

EVEN SO, I STILL NEARLY...

WERE YOU CRYING, CANARY?

OH SHUT UP.

MID-NITE, I--

WHAT THE--

DON'T WORRY--

--IT'S ME.

JAY? WHAT HAPPENED?!

RIVAL NEARLY KILLED ME--

HE'D BEEN TRAPPED IN THE SPEED FORCE FOR HALF A CENTURY, HIS BODY SLOWLY BEING CONSUMED BY THE ENERGY. BY THE TIME HE ESCAPED, HE WAS NOTHING BUT ENERGY--

THE ONLY WAY TO STOP HIM WAS TO ABSORB PART OF HIM. I STOLE HIS SPEED AND HIS HELMET.

I GUESS THIS LOOK IS AN AFTEREFFECT.

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? THE BROWNSTONE WAS DESERTED.

SORROW'S GOT SAND CORNERED SOMEWHERE IN THE MAZE.

WE LOST CONTACT WITH EVERYONE ELSE HOURS AGO. MY GOD, THOSE THINGS ARE DEVOURING EVERYTHING LIKE PIRANHA.

OKAY, THEN.

I'VE GOT--

FWOOSH

--AN IDEA.

DAMN, MAN! WHERE--?

J.J. THUNDER?!

LOOK, J.J., I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SPELL IT ALL OUT FOR YOU. WE NEED THE THUNDER-BOLT AND WE NEED IT NOW.

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!

THE LIVES OF EVERYONE IN THIS CITY, AND THIS WORLD, ARE AT STAKE, SON.

CALM DOWN.

AND WATCH THE LANGUAGE.

YOU'RE A SUPERHERO.

GET YOURSELF TOGETHER.

MAN, I DID NOT SIGN UP FOR THIS.

KLIK

SKRAKOOM

HEY, J.J.!!

'SUP?

YO, THUNDERBOLT. SEE THOSE... THINGS?

SURE DO.

WHY DON'T YOU... OH, MAN... *FRY* 'EM OR SOMETHING?

YOU DON'T SOUND TOO *CONFIDENT* ABOUT THAT, J.J., BUT HERE GOES--

FZZAK

TOASTED LIGHTLY. WHAT *NOW?*

WOOSH

#$%@!

THERE'S NO *WAY* THAT KID'S GOING TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS, JAY.

WITH DR. FATE MISSING THIS WAS THE *BEST* I COULD DO.

I'VE SEEN THAT THUNDERBOLT GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH TRANS-DIMENSIONAL DICTATORS AND NAZI-INDUCED *DEMONS*. HE JUST NEEDS *GUIDANCE*.

GIVE THE KID A CHANCE.

FWOOSH

WHERE *IS* DR. FATE ANYWAY?

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

I'M SURPRISED YOU HAVEN'T VISITED OUR JANE DOE EARLIER.

nergency

1544

BUT WE DO APPRECIATE THE JSA STEPPING IN AND PAYING FOR HER MEDICAL BILLS, MR. HALL. NOT TO MENTION OUR RECENT REMODELING.

IT'S THE LEAST WE CAN DO...THE VERY LEAST.

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

THE FACT THAT THIS POOR WOMAN SPENT THE BETTER HALF OF AN HOUR UNDERWATER DOESN'T GIVE OUR DOCTORS MUCH HOPE.

THEY'VE TRIED THEIR BEST TO WAKE HER BUT--

BUT THEY CAN'T. I KNOW. I CAN ALREADY SENSE IT. THERE IS MORE AT WORK HERE THAN INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE.

"SENSE IT"? RIGHT...

I...THIS IS...A LITTLE STRANGE FOR ME. YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE MY AWKWARDNESS.

29

DO NOT WORRY. AFTER I AM GONE YOU WILL HAVE FORGOTTEN OUR VISIT.

NOW GO BACK TO YOUR COFFEE BREAK--

--AND LEAVE DOCTOR FATE TO HIS CRAFT!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ASLEEP? BEEN LOST IN YOUR OWN DREAMS?

I FEEL A SPELL HAS BEEN CAST...A DECEPTION. BY A FAMILIAR MAGIC SIGNATURE...

MORDRU!

YOU TRIED TO HIDE THE TRUTH FROM ME...TRIED TO TAKE MY WIFE AWAY.

BUT I HAVE FOUND YOU, MY BELOVED!

LYTA!

HELP MEEE!

MY GOD. ALL OF MANHATTAN. IT'S ENDLESS.

JUST CONCENTRATE ON SAVING WHO WE CAN, CANARY.

THERE'S TOO MANY, J.J.!

OH, GOD... I DON'T KNOW. I--

I DON'T WANT TO BE A SUPERHERO.

SHAKK

I CAN'T DO THIS... CAN'T--

YES.

FZZAK

PLEASE! TELL ME WHAT TO DO!

J.J.! WHAT-- AAACK!

AAAH!

YOU CAN.

STAR. HAWKGIRL. GIVE THE OTHERS AN ASSIST.

I'LL DEAL WITH THE BOY.

WE'RE ON IT, TERRIFIC!

I--

I JUST WANT TO G-GO HOME.

IF YOU DON'T HELP US NOW, THERE WON'T BE A *HOME* TO GO TO.

THAT *FORCE*, THAT LIVING *THUNDERBOLT* IS *YOUR* RESPONSIBILITY.

HE'S BEING CONSUMED.

HE'S *DYING*, KID.

AND IF *HE* DOES, SO DO *WE*.

LOOK OUT!

BEHIND YOU!

SHRIIP

HEY, DOC.

NO WORRIES.

CANARY, I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT HAWKGIRL.

WHY? WHAT IS IT, COURTNEY?

SKRRUNCH

KRUNCH

WHAK

ON THE WAY OVER, KENDRA ASKED ME SOMETHING *REALLY* STRANGE--

SHE ASKED ME WHERE "*CARTER*" WAS.

IT'S NOW OR NEVER, J.J.

YOU'RE R-RIGHT, MAN. HE'S MORE THAN JUST MY RESPONSIBILITY.

HE'S MY...FRIEND, MY ONLY ONE LATELY.

YO, THUNDERBOLT!! MAKE LIKE A BUG ZAPPER. MOTHS LIKE LIGHT. THEY WANT A PIECE OF YOU?

FINE.

BURN THEM OUT OF THE SKY!

NOW... YOU'RE TALKING...

KAZZAM!

...MY LANGUAGE!!

KAZAM!

GOOD WORK.

AS IF THEY STOOD A CHANCE AGAINST THE GOOD OL' J S OF A!

THAT, YEAH... THAT GOT 'EM.

DO YOU SEE THAT?

I THINK WE JUST MADE IT MAD.

YES.

I DON'T THINK WE KILLED IT.

THEN LET IT DEAL WITH ME.

LET IT FACE THE *WRATH OF THE SPECTRE* ONCE AGAIN!

WHOA.

WILDCAT! YOU ALL RIGHT?!

;KAFF; ;KAFF; DO I ALWAYS COME THROUGH OR DO I ALWAYS COME THROUGH?

WHAT THE *HELL'S BLACK ADAM* DOING HERE?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, HE'S WITH US.

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. BUT RIGHT NOW--

"I WANNA WATCH THIS DUST UP."

YOU HAVE SOUGHT OUT THE *WRONG* WORLD TO FEED UPON, *DEMON.*

YOU FACED ME ONCE BEFORE.

THERE WILL *NOT* BE A *THIRD* TI--

KZZZZZZZZ

AAARRRGHHH!!

KZZZZZZZZ

KZZZZZZZZ

KRASH

WHOOM

WHAKOOM

NYC

PARI

SHAM

OMM
THUD
NEXT ISSUE:
THE QUICK AND THE DEAD!

JSA #20 cover by

ALAN DAVIS & MARK FARMER

"JOAN... I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WILL EVER READ THIS. CHANCES ARE YOU WON'T. BUT I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF, LIKE I ALWAYS DO...

"IT BEGAN WITH WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS THE END. THE JSA HAD PLAYED THEIR BEST HAND AGAINST JOHNNY SORROW, ONLY TO FIND OURSELVES TRUMPED..."

"THE SPECTRE HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE JSA'S BIG GUN. BUT OUR COLLEAGUE, JIM CORRIGAN, WASN'T IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT ANYMORE."

"GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT POOR SOUL WAS NOW."

INJUSTICE BE DONE part 5

GODSPEED

DAVID GOYER & GEOFF JOHNS	STEPHEN SADOWSKI	MICHAEL BAIR	KEN LOPEZ	JOHN KALISZ	HEROIC AGE	PETER TOMASI
WRITERS	PENCILLER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	SEPARATOR	EDITOR

Pain and fear and hunger are effects of causes which can be foreseen and known: but sorrow is a debt which someone else makes for us.

--Freya Stark

IT TRIED TO EAT ME, TOO, J.J.! WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

JOHNNY SORROW HAS THE KING OF TEARS FEASTING ON ALL ORGANIC MATTER.

SWHOOOSHHH

WHOA! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!

A... MUSCLE STRAND?

AMAZING.

SWHOOSSHHH

HE'S REBUILDING HIMSELF. CELL BY CELL.

ARRR... I...

I...

FWOOOSHH

THE KING OF TEARS HAS NO CONSCIENCE TO CHALLENGE, NO GUILT TO EXPLOIT.

NO SOUL TO REDEEM OR DAMN.

AGAINST THIS MONSTROSITY THERE IS NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO.

IF THE SPECTRE CAN'T VANQUISH IT, WHAT HOPE DOES THAT GIVE US?

US? EASY, CHIEF. YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO HELP. THAT'S PEACHY. BUT IT DON'T MAKE YOU A CARD-CARRYING MEMBER OF THE JUNIOR JSA.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO SOUND DESPERATE, TETH-ADAM.

YOU DISAPPOINT ME.

HOW DID YOU KNOW... THAT NAME?

KENDRA? WHAT ARE YOU--

NOW'S NOT THE TIME, COURTNEY.

NEW YORK'S CITIZENS ARE IN SPIRITUAL CHAOS. THERE ARE OTHER THINGS I NEED ATTEND TO. LEAVE THE CITY TO ME.

STOPPING THAT BEAST IS UP TO THE JSA.

I'M... SORRY.

SINCE WHEN DOES THE SPECTRE APOLOGIZE?

HE SOUNDS SO...DIFFERENT... FAMILIAR.

IS THAT IT? THE WORLD'S DONE?

DON'T ASK ME, J.J. I JUST WORK HERE.

CALM DOWN, YOU TWO.

REMINDS ME MORE OF JOHNNY THAN I THOUGHT.

CAN YOU REESTABLISH YOUR COM-LINK WITH SAND, TERRIFIC? IS IT--

ALREADY HAVE. I CAN HEAR HIM.

Terrific

HE'S...

HE'S LAUGHING.

A BEAUTIFUL BACKDROP, ISN'T IT? WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THE *END* OF THE WORLD WOULD'VE LOOKED *SO MAGICAL?*

SO PERFECT.

HEH HEH...

WHAT'S SO *FUNNY?*

...

SPEAK *UP, BOY!!*

BESIDES YOUR *POOR* TASTE IN SUITS... AND YOUR *BAD* ACTING.

NOTHING.

KEEP *SMILING, SANDY.*

KEEP *SMILING.*

ALL RIGHT, LISTEN UP--

MID-NITE AND I HAVE A *PLAN* BUT IT'S GOING TO BE *RISKY*, PARTICULARLY FOR *YOU*, FLASH.

SON, IF I WAS *AVERSE* TO RISK I WOULD'VE HUNG UP MY HELMET A *LONG* TIME AGO.

FIGURED YOU'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT. HOW *FAST* CAN YOU RUN? CAN YOU REACH *SUPER-LUMINAL* SPEED?

WHAT IF WE *BOOSTED* YOUR *VELOCITY?* YOU'VE ALREADY *ABSORBED* RIVAL'S KINETIC ENERGY.

YOU COULD ABSORB *BLACK ADAM'S* SPEED, TOO.

THE SWIFTNESS OF *HERU* IS A *GIFT*, STRIPLING. ONE NOT GIVEN *LIGHTLY*.

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT WANTED TO *HELP*, ADAM. ARE YOU *IN* OR *OUT?*

LIGHT-SPEED? NO, ONLY *WALLY WEST* CAN. THERE'S A KIND OF ABSOLUTE *BARRIER*-- THE *SPEED FORCE*. YOU RUN *TOO* FAST, YOU RISK *LOSING* YOURSELF IN IT.

I'LL DO WHAT'S *REQUIRED* OF ME.

SO ADAM LENDS ME HIS SPEED. TO WHAT END?

IMAGINE A *BULLET* FIRED FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT. NOW IMAGINE *YOU* AS THAT BULLET.

I SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING. YOU WANT TO REPRODUCE THE EFFECTS OF A *PARTICLE ACCELERATOR*--

--BUT ON A *GLOBAL* SCALE. INSTEAD OF YOUR BASIC SUBATOMIC PARTICLE, WE'LL HAVE YOU CIRCLE THE GLOBE AGAIN AND AGAIN, PICKING UP *SPEED*.

WHEN THE MOMENT'S RIGHT, YOU'LL *HIT* SORROW. PROBABLY *PUNCH* A HOLE STRAIGHT THROUGH THE FABRIC OF SPACE-TIME.

IF MY GUESS IS *RIGHT*, YOU'LL TAKE THE KING OF TEARS WITH YOU INTO THE SPEED FORCE WHERE IT'LL BE CONVERTED TO PURE ENERGY.

AND HOW DO I FIND MY WAY *BACK* AGAIN?

THAT'S THE RISKY PART.

I'M *HOPING* YOU CAN USE BLACK ADAM'S ENERGY SIGNATURE AS A *TETHER*-- FOLLOW IT HOME.

YOU SAID THE RIGHT MOMENT--HOW WILL I *KNOW* WHEN THAT IS?

ACCORDING TO *SAND*, THE KING OF TEARS HAS TAKEN A PAGE FROM H.P. LOVECRAFT. IT'S YOUR BASIC BLIND, IDIOT GOD. A FORCE OF *PURE EVIL*, BUT LARGELY *RUDDERLESS* WITHOUT SOMEONE TO *GUIDE* IT.

JOHNNY SORROW IS THAT *SOMEONE*. WE TAKE HIM OUT, *DISORIENT* HIM, AND YOU'LL HAVE YOUR *MOMENT*.

THE GUY'S BASICALLY *INTANGIBLE*. HOW THE HELL ARE YOU GOING TO DISORIENT HIM WHEN YOU CAN'T EVEN *TOUCH* HIM?

YOU LEAVE THAT TO ME.

JUST GET ME TO SORROW. I'LL DO THE REST.

KEYSTONE CITY.

I KNOW YOU'RE THERE.

JOAN. I--

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME JAY.

"I REMEMBER THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES, JOAN. WE'D GONE THROUGH THE MOTIONS SO MANY TIMES BEFORE.

"I FEARED I MIGHT NOT BE COMING BACK. IT WAS FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD. TO SAVE EVERYONE."

WHEN WILL YOU TALK ABOUT HIM, JAY...

...AND WHEN WILL YOU LET ME?

"EVERYONE I COULD."

I LOVE YOU, JOAN.

OKAY. I'M BACK.

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, JAY?

I'M CONFIDENT, CANARY, BUT I'M NOT STUPID. I'VE WEIGHED THE RISKS. ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL, WE'RE PRETTY MUCH OUT OF OPTIONS.

YOU READY, BLACK ADAM?

OF COURSE.

THEN LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF SPEED THIS "HERU" OF YOURS IS REALLY MADE OF.

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

KRA-BOOM

$#@!! MY EARS ARE GONNA BE RINGING FOR DAYS.

SONIC BOOM. YOU GET USED TO IT.

ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE. INTO THE LABYRINTH WE GO.

"WE RAN. TO HIS CREDIT, BLACK ADAM WAS **FASTER** THAN I WOULD HAVE GUESSED."

"I CAN ONLY **IMAGINE** WHAT KIND OF **STRAIN** HE ENDURED AS HE **STRUGGLED** TO KEEP PACE WITH ME."

"THE SPEED OF SOUND IS ROUGHLY A THOUSAND FEET PER SECOND. MACH 1. AT APPROXIMATELY MACH 500, BLACK ADAM'S STRENGTH BEGAN TO FLAG."

"HE **STUMBLED**--

--AND I **STOLE** HIS VELOCITY."

"186,000 MILES PER SECOND. THE **SPEED OF LIGHT.**

I AM A CHEMIST BY TRAINING, BUT I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT **SPECIAL RELATIVITY.**

"**STRANGE** THINGS HAPPEN AS YOU APPROACH THE SUPERLUMINAL BARRIER."

"YOUR BODY **LOSES** PHYSICAL MASS, CONVERTING TO LIGHT ENERGY.

"YOUR SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE OF TIME **CHANGES**--

"--IT FLOWS LIKE MOLASSES--

"--BEGINS TO FOLD BACK IN UPON ITSELF."

"I DON'T THINK I'VE **EVER** FELT **MORE** ALONE IN THOSE MOMENTS, JOAN--

"--MORE FRIGHTENED."

PANIC AND FEAR ARE OVERWHELMING YOU.

I KNOW ABOUT OVERCOMING FEAR.

LET ME OPEN YOUR EYES...

AND TOGETHER WE WILL CONQUER IT.

AND TOGETHER WE WILL CONQUER IT.

NASTY, J.J., WHY DON'T YA HAVE THAT THUNDERBOLT ZAP 'EM, OR SOMETHIN'?

GOT A BETTER IDEA, STAR. HEY, THUNDERBOLT!

'SUP?

THIS CRAZY MAZE KEEPS GROWING AND GROWING--

HOW THE HELL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND--

KID'S MAKING A HELLUVA PATH THROUGH THIS ANT FARM. HE'S WEARING THE THUNDERBOLT LIKE A FORCE FIELD. LET'S GO!

YEAH!!

BRING IT ON!

SHZZZAK

SAND'S SIGNAL IS DOWN THIS WAY.

SPUKKF

HUNGRY?

SPLATCH

THANKS, HAWKGIRL.

NO PROBLEM, McNIDER.

McNIDER?

SHRRRD

LATER...

STOP LAUGHING AND OPEN YOUR EYES, DAMN YOU.

HEH HEH.

THAT'S IT--

--TAKE SORROW'S FOCUS OFF COMMANDING THE KING OF TEARS--

HAHA--

KRAK

--AND JUST ON YOU.

KRAK

--HA HA.

KRAK

HA HA.

SORROW!!!

MID-NITE. DIDN'T I KILL YOU?

--EVER HEAR HOW PERSEUS SLEW MEDUSA?

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?

I'M BLIND, SORROW--

--I COULDN'T SEE YOUR TRUE FACE--

--BUT THE DIGITAL CAMERA IN MY GOGGLES RECORDED IT--

--HAVE A LOOK!

"MID-NITE DID HIS PART BEAUTIFULLY. A CLASSIC BLIND MAN'S BUFF."

YIAAIIIRRRGGGHHH!!!

"I REMEMBER SEEING SORROW AND MY FELLOW TEAMMATES FROZEN LIKE STATUES--

"AS A SPEEDSTER, I SUPPOSE I SHOULD'VE BEEN USED TO THE EXPERIENCE BY NOW--THE ISOLATION THAT A LIFE ON FAST-FORWARD BREEDS."

"BUT I WASN'T. AND PROBABLY NEVER WILL BE."

"I REMEMBER SORROW. CAPTURED IN A MOMENT OF ABJECT HORROR. CONFRONTED BY HIS OWN REFLECTION."

"TANGIBLE FOR THAT BRIEF MOMENT."

"I HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING I HAD."

"AND FOR THE SAKE OF US BOTH, GOD HELP ME, I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT I STOPPED HIM."

"WE WERE GONE LIKE THAT."

"AND THE WORLD?"

"I'M TOLD THE WORLD RIGHTED ITSELF."

"THE LABYRINTH RECEDED LIKE A LOW WATER TIDE--"

"--LIKE A NIGHT'S BAD DREAM."

WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

MY ROLE IN THIS IS FINISHED.

BUT--

"--I HAVE ONE MORE STOP TO MAKE."

NOT LOOKING GOOD. BARRING A MIRACLE, HE DOESN'T HAVE LONG.

ALAN.

FAASH

HE-HELLO?

COULD'VE... SWORN...

...SOMEONE WAS HERE.

THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF SORROW.

WHO WAS THAT MASKED DUDE, ANYWAY?

SOMEONE I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE HEARING FROM AGAIN.

THAT'S WHAT CARTER THOUGHT *LAST* TIME, SANDY.

THAT'S *IT*! HOW *FREAKY* ARE YOU GONNA GET, KENDRA? WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU?

I... I DON'T KNOW.

COURTNEY... I DON'T...

PLEASE... HELP.

KRAKOOM

ZAM! THAT DID 'EM, DIDN'T--

HEY, MAN- SAND WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE BIRDIE?

SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT. HAVE YOU SEEN THE FLASH?

I DON'T KNOW, YO!

HE'S GOTTA BE AROUND HERE *SOMEWHERE*.

RIGHT?!

THE SPEED FORCE.

--DID IT! MY GOD--

--SO BEAUTIFUL HERE--

"THERE WAS A **MOMENT** THERE, HOWEVER BRIEF, WHEN I ALMOST **LOST** MYSELF. WHEN I FELT THE **CORE** OF MY BEING--"

"--MY **SOUL**, I SUPPOSE, BEGINNING TO **DIFFUSE**."

"BUT THEN I THOUGHT OF YOUR **FACE**, JOAN. YOUR WELCOMING ARMS. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN MY **TOUCHSTONE**. THE FIXED POINT AROUND WHICH I ORBITED."

"I BEGAN TO DECELERATE."

"TO REGAIN MY MASS."

"I USED **BLACK ADAM'S** ENERGY SIGNATURE AS A **TETHER**, JUST LIKE TERRIFIC SUGGESTED."

"THE WORLD BEGAN TO SNAP INTO FOCUS AROUND ME."

"I REMEMBER SMILING, MY EYES TEARING UP--

"--AND THEN I **STUMBLED**."

"I SKIPPED ACROSS THE ATLANTIC LIKE A STONE OVER A LAKE'S SURFACE."

"I ROLLED TO A STOP."

"LOST CONSCIOUSNESS."

"I *THOUGHT* I WAS RUNNING HOME TO YOU, JOAN--

"--BUT WHEN I *FINALLY* AWOKE--"

BY RA'S *GAZE*, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

NEITHER *HITTITE* NOR *SEA PEOPLE*, I'D WAGER. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A SPECIMEN *SO PALE?*

"--I WAS **FURTHER** FROM YOUR ARMS THAN I **EVER** COULD'VE IMAGINED."

CAREFUL, MY LORD. HE STIRS.

WELCOME, STRANGER. THESE ARE MY ADVISORS, *NABU THE WISE* AND *TETH-ADAM*.

I AM *PRINCE KHUFU*, OF THE THEBAN DYNASTY.

JSA #21 cover by

ALAN DAVIS

& MARK FARMER

YOU WANT TO WHAT--?!

YOU HEARD ME. I WANT TO JOIN THE JUSTICE SOCIETY.

I APPRECIATE THE HELP YOU GAVE US WITH JOHNNY SORROW, BUT I JUST CAN'T SEE THE JSA WELCOMING SOMEONE LIKE YOU INTO THEIR RANKS. EVER.

SOMEONE LIKE ME. YOU MEAN A FORMER VILLAIN? A MURDERER?

I DID NOT KILL THE BATSONS. THEO ADAM DID. YOUR OWN LEGAL SYSTEM HAS ACQUITTED ME. THIS ISN'T SIMPLY A CASE OF MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES. HE IS ANOTHER PERSON. HE FORCED ME TO DO IT.

THAT'S GREAT. BUT THINK FOR A MINUTE HOW IT WOULD LOOK. WE'RE THE JUSTICE SOCIETY. THE WORLD TRUSTS US.

AND WHAT ABOUT SUPERMAN? DO THEY TRUST HIM? SHOULD THEY?

SUPERMAN RECENTLY PERPETRATED ALL *SORTS* OF CRIMES UNDER THE *INFLUENCE* OF *DOMINUS*. WAS *HE* HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACTIONS?

WELL--

THEN WHY SHOULD *I* BE HELD TO TASK FOR THEO ADAM'S *WRONGS*?

WHAT ABOUT *YOU* FOR THAT MATTER? YOU'VE SPENT TIME AS A *MONSTER*, TERRORIZING PEOPLE. AND NOW YOU'RE *CHAIRMAN* OF THE JSA.

I *NEED* THE KIND OF CREDIBILITY THE JSA CAN PROVIDE. AND YOU NEED *ME*, SAND. YOUR TEAM IS *UNDER-POWERED* AS IT IS.

WE NEED *POWER*, WE'LL CALL CAPTAIN MARVEL.

VERY FUNNY.

LOOK, THE BOTTOM LINE IS-- WE DON'T *TRUST* YOU. *I* DON'T TRUST YOU.

WE NEED TO TABLE THIS. I'VE GOT *OTHER* FIRES TO PUT OUT. LIKE THE BILL TED KORD IS *CHARGING* US FOR RECONFIGURING OUR SECURITY SYSTEMS--

--NOT TO MENTION WHERE THE HELL JAY *DISAPPEARED* TO.

HE'LL BE BACK.

HOW DO *YOU* KNOW?

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO *TRUST* ME, WON'T YOU?

WE NEED TO TALK, KENDRA.

ABOUT WHAT?

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO YOU THESE LAST FEW WEEKS. YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE. YOUR PERSONALITY'S BEEN CHANGING.

I'M FINE, SAND.

YOU DON'T LOOK FINE.

WE TOOK YOU IN ON YOUR GRANDFATHER'S RECOMMENDATION. SPEED SAUNDERS HAS BEEN A GOOD FRIEND TO THE JSA. AN ALLY--

--BUT I'M STARTING TO REALIZE THERE'S A GREAT DEAL WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU. A LOT OF HOLES IN YOUR SECURITY CLEARANCE FILE.

LIKE?

LIKE WHERE THESE SCARS CAME FROM.

YOU TEND TO KEEP YOUR WRISTS COVERED, BUT UNLESS I'M TOTALLY OFF THE MARK--

--I'D SAY YOU ATTEMPTED SUICIDE WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER.

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, MR. CHAIRMAN.

YOU'RE WRONG, KENDRA. IF YOU'VE GOT SKELETONS RATTLING AROUND IN YOUR CLOSET, THE TEAM NEEDS TO HEAR ABOUT IT. WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS. WE CARE ABOUT YOU LIKE FAMILY.

I DON'T NEED MORE FAMILY. THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE IS BECAUSE MY STUPID GRANDFATHER PUT ME UP TO IT.

I NEVER EVEN WANTED TO BE A HERO.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT HAWKGIRL'S LEGACY!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF YOU!

THE SLAB.

SO...

...WHAT THE HELL DO *YOU* WANT, WILDCAT?

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR *BEEF* IS WITH ME. *WHY* YOU HOOKED UP WITH *SORROW?*

BACK IN THE EARLY 50'S, MY SON, JAKE, WAS KIDNAPPED. TAKEN FROM HIS MOTHER'S HOME BY THE *YELLOW WASP.* NEVER SAW EITHER OF THEM AGAIN.

YEARS LATER, *YOU*-- THE *KILLER WASP*-- SHOW UP. YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT *JAKE* AND YOU'VE GOT A GOOD *RIGHT HOOK.*

IT DOESN'T TAKE A *ROCKET SCIENTIST* TO PUT IT TOGETHER.

WHAT'S THE DEAL, *KID?*

ARE YOU... MY *SON?*

NO.

I GREW UP WITH JAKE. HE WAS EVERYTHING YOU WOULD'VE WANTED, I SUPPOSE. SMART. CARING. *STRONG.*

HE WAS LIKE A *BROTHER* TO ME. AND BECAME A TRUE *SON* TO MY FATHER, THE *GOOD* SON. THE *BEST* SON.

IN FACT, JAKE LOVED MY FATHER *SO* MUCH, WELL... IT MADE THE OLD MAN HANG UP HIS *WINGS*--

OF COURSE, THIS WAS ALL *AFTER* THE EXPERIMENTS. *AFTER* HE'D LEFT ME LIKE *THIS.*

YOUR SON IS *DEAD.* AND HE NEVER EVEN KNEW WHO HIS FATHER REALLY WAS.

ALL THE GOOD IT WOULD'VE DONE HIM.

ADIOS, "*CHAMP.*"

KRAKK

"YOUR SON IS DEAD."

THE DOCTORS *STILL* DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, DAD. HOW YOU HEALED SO--

DAD?

ALAN-- HERE'S TO A BIG RECOVERY. LOVE, AL

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

JUST *THINKING*, JENNIE.

I'VE ESCAPED *DEATH* SO MANY TIMES. I...

I'M SORRY YOUR BROTHER COULDN'T DO THE SAME.

HE'S--

HE'S *NOT* DEAD, DAD.

WHAT DO YOU--

YOU KNOW TODD AND I SHARE THIS KIND OF... *CONNECTION.*

I USED TO DREAM ABOUT HIM. OR *WITH* HIM...

GOOD DREAMS.

WHEN I HAD BOY TROUBLES WITH HENRY. OH, I *STILL* MISS HIM.

TODD WAS *ALWAYS* THERE. *HELPING* ME. *TALKING* ME THROUGH THE HARD TIMES.

BUT *NOW*...

EVERY NIGHT, EVERY *SECOND* MY EYES ARE *CLOSED*, HE *HAUNTS* ME.

I CAN'T *SLEEP* ANYMORE...

HE'S *OUT* THERE, DAD.

HE'S OUT THERE *SOMEWHERE.*

AND HE WANTS ALL OF *US DEAD.*

BONES.

HELLO, AL.

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME? SOMETHING ABOUT A *LOOSE* END?

THE PLANE *KOBRA* TOOK DOWN A FEW WEEKS AGO. YOUR *MOTHER'S NAME* WAS ON THE PASSENGER MANIFEST. YET SHE'S ALIVE. AND WE *KNOW* SHE BOARDED THE PLANE. ODD, YES?

EVEN ODDER. ONE OF THE BODIES IDENTIFIED *WASN'T* ON THE MANIFEST. *HANK HALL*. THE MAN WHO BECAME *EXTANT*, THE MAN YOU AND YOUR TEAMMATES *SUPPOSEDLY* WENT IN SEARCH OF. WHAT *HAPPENED*, AL?

WE FOUND HIM.

AND--?

AND I *DID* WHAT I *HAD* TO DO.

YOU'VE *CHANGED*, AL.

LOOK WHO'S *TALKING*. WASN'T *SO* LONG AGO, YOU WERE A *CRIMINAL*, COMPLETE WITH A FLASHY COSTUME AND A KNACK FOR *RHYMING*.

AN *AFFECTATION*. MY CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE *CHANGED* SINCE THEN.

YEAH? WELL *MINE* HAVE *TOO*.

MEANING WHAT?

MEANING IT'S *TIME* THE *JUSTICE SOCIETY* STARTED TAKING IT'S NAME *SERIOUSLY*.

I'M *TIRED* OF THE REVOLVING DOOR, BONES. I'VE SEEN *TOO MANY* VILLAINS *CAPTURED*, THEN *ESCAPE* TO KILL AGAIN.

SYLVESTER PEMBERTON

WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH ME?!

SAND'S RIGHT. I *AM* LOSING IT-- NIGHTMARES ALL THE *TIME*, NOW--

--BLACKOUTS--

YOU'RE *SCARED*, KENDRA. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU *ARE* ANYMORE.

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO*? RUN BACK TO AUSTIN?

FACE IT, YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING YOUR *WHOLE LIFE!* AND *WHERE* HAS IT GOTTEN YOU?

NOWHERE, FROM THE LOOKS OF IT.

HUH ?!

MY NAME IS *ZAURIEL*. MY APOLOGIES IF I *STARTLED* YOU. BUT YOU SEEMED A LITTLE--*LOST*.

ZAURIEL-- WEREN'T YOU IN THE JLA?

FOR A TIME.

BEFORE THAT I WAS A MEMBER OF THE EAGLE HOST OF HEAVEN. NOW I FUNCTION AS A GUARDIAN ANGEL.

A GUARDIAN ANGEL. RIGHT.

FROM YOUR TONE, I TAKE IT YOU'RE AN ATHEIST?

AH. WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?

WHY ARE YOU HERE, ANYWAY?

FRANKLY, I MISTOOK YOU FOR ONE OF MY KIND. YOU SEE, I'VE FALLEN A BIT SINCE I LAST FLEW WITH THE HOST. IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT I ENCOUNTER A HUMAN WITH WINGS THESE DAYS.

LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY--IF THERE IS A GOD, HE DOESN'T SEEM VERY CONCERNED WITH WHAT WE'RE DOING DOWN HERE.

AND IF HE'S NOT CONCERNED WITH US, WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED WITH HIM?

OKAY, I'LL BITE. WHY WERE YOU KICKED OUT OF HEAVEN?

I FELL IN LOVE WITH A MORTAL WOMAN.

SORRY, ROMEO, BUT LOVE'S ANOTHER THING I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE IN.

CONEY ISLAND.

PIETER CROSS AND DINAH LANCE, A.K.A. DR. MID-NITE AND BLACK CANARY.

THAT'S *TWO* DATES WE'VE BEEN ON NOW. DO YOU THINK THAT MAKES US AN *ITEM*?

REALLY?

HMMM. SEEING AS HOW *COUNT VERTIGO* CRASHED OUR *FIRST* DINNER, I'M NOT SURE THAT ONE *COUNTS*--

ABSOLUTELY. I MEAN ANY DATE THAT ENDS WITH ME PROJECTILE VOMITING *DEFINITELY* SHOULDN'T COUNT, RIGHT?

GOD I *LOVE* THIS PLACE. ASTROLAND. THE CYCLONE. THE BOARDWALK. WE'VE GOT TO GET A HOTDOG AT *NATHAN'S* WHILE WE'RE HERE--

HATE TO *DISAPPOINT* YOU, BUT I'M A CARD-CARRYING *VEGETARIAN*.

YOU? GET OUT. NEXT YOU'LL BE TELLING ME YOU PRACTICE *YOGA*.

IN FACT, I *DO*. GOING ON TEN YEARS NOW.

SOMEHOW, I NEVER PICTURED YOU FOR THE *GRANOLA* TYPE.

OH, I'M *FULL* OF SURPRISES. *BELIEVE* ME.

WONDER WHEEL

THE WONDER WHEEL.

CARE TO TAKE A SPIN, DOC?

DID YOU KNOW THAT THEY DECLARED THIS FERRIS WHEEL AN HISTORIC LANDMARK IN 1989?

THERE'S ALSO A FULL-SCALE DUPLICATE OF IT IN YOKOHAMA, JAPAN.

CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

SURE.

DO YOU *ALWAYS* TALK THIS MUCH BEFORE YOU *KISS* A GIRL?

WONDER WHEEL

SO WE'VE ESTABLISHED THAT YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN LOVE. *WHY?*

THE PEOPLE THAT I'VE *CARED* ABOUT IN MY LIFE HAVE ALL *DIED*. MY MOM, MY DAD--

THIS IS *STUPID*--WHY AM I EVEN *TALKING* ABOUT THIS?

BECAUSE YOU'RE *HURTING*. AND BECAUSE I HAVE AN *AFFINITY* FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

I *KNOW* THESE THINGS. IT'S ONE OF THE *TALENTS* MY POSITION *AFFORDS* ME.

SO WE'RE BASICALLY HAVING OUR OWN LITTLE "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" MOMENT HERE?

IF YOU LIKE.

YOU *NEED* TO COME TO GRIPS WITH YOUR *PAST*, KENDRA. YOU WON'T HAVE ANY *PEACE* UNTIL YOU DO.

I'VE BEEN HAVING NIGHTMARES...

I KNOW.

TELL ME WHAT *HAPPENED*, KENDRA.

NO JUDGMENTS. I *PROMISE*.

TH--THESE SCARS ARE FROM WHEN I WAS *YOUNGER*. MY *FIRST* ATTEMPT. A PRETTY LAME ONE.

AND THEY DIED *HOW*?

IT HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER MY PARENTS *DIED*.

YOU'RE THE ANGEL. YOU TELL *ME*.

THEY WERE *MURDERED*, WEREN'T THEY?

YEAH. I KIND OF SPIRALED *DOWNWARD* AFTER THAT. GOT IN SOME *TROUBLE* WITH THE POLICE--

THEN ABOUT A *YEAR* OR SO AGO, I TOOK SOME PILLS--A *LOT* OF THEM. MY GRANDFATHER FOUND ME. BROUGHT ME TO THE HOSPITAL.

I GUESS THEY PUMPED MY STOMACH OR SOMETHING--

SUICIDE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A *SIN*, RIGHT?

IN *SOME* BELIEFS.

WHAT DO YOU *DREAM* ABOUT, KENDRA?

I DREAM THAT I'M *DYING* OVER AND OVER AGAIN. IN DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS. AND THERE'S ALWAYS A *MAN* THERE WITH ME--

KHUFU.

"Joan. I've been keeping this journal as a way to try to stay **SANE**. Writing you. Trying to **RECORD** the wonders that I've **SEEN**.

"I have been here three days-- "**HERE**" meaning ancient **EGYPT**. Some time during the Theban Dynasty.

"My host is **PRINCE KHUFU KHA-TAAR**, the man who will one day be reincarnated as our friend **CARTER HALL**.

"**HAWKMAN**.

"The whole concept of **REINCARNATION** makes my head **DIZZY**. And **YET**--

"There is **SOMETHING** about this man--a kind of **WISDOM** in his eyes that is undeniably **CARTER**. Or **WILL** be Carter, I guess.

"Today, Khufu and his advisors decided to **ENTRUST** me with a **SECRET**. And what a secret it was.

"It seems my hosts had **UNEARTHED** something."

OH MY GOD--

"A SHIP, JOAN.

"FROM THE PLANET THANAGAR.

"APPARENTLY IT HAD CRASH-LANDED IN THE ARABIAN DESERT--

"THREE THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE ANY CONTACT BETWEEN OUR WORLDS!"

NO WAY, YO!

YEAH, IT'S THEM! SURE IS!

YO, MR. TERRIFIC!

HARLEM YOUTH CENTER

ANYONE INTERESTED IN A LITTLE *BASKETBALL*? THE COURT'S GOING TO OPEN UP IN *FIVE* MINUTES.

COOL! THANKS, STAR!

YOU'RE WELCOME

WHAT'S THE *PROBLEM*, JJ? I BROUGHT YOU AND COURTNEY HERE TO HELP OUT. SEE WHAT *ELSE* THE JSA CAN DO BESIDES BATTLING COSTUMED *MANIACS* AND *MONSTERS*.

THE JSA IS--

--IS *WASTING* MY TIME TODAY.

AND *HOW* THESE KIDS ARE GETTIN' PAST *YOUR LAME-O* COSTUME IS BEYOND ME *AND* THE THUNDERBOLT.

DR. MID-NITE LIKES IT.

MID-NITE'S *BLIND*.

AND YOU CAN CHILL ON THE "JJ". I'M TWELVE. THE NAME'S *JAKEEM*.

KID, YOU GOT A SERIOUS CHIP ON YOUR SHOULDER.

I DON'T KNOW HOW THE $#@$ SAND TALKED ME INTO COMIN' HERE TODAY. WHY YOU AND BLONDIE EVEN WANTED ME HERE.

OH, WAIT. I GET IT.

"MR. T'S" PLAYIN' BIG BLACK HERO TO THE LITTLE BLACK HERO.

NOW JAKEEM WAIT JUST A--

DON'T TOUCH ME, MAN! BACK OFF.

THAT KID... I SHOULD...

TEMPER, HOLT. PAULA ALWAYS SAID YOU HAD ONE.

MAN. SOMETIMES I DON'T THINK WE'LL *EVER* GET THROUGH TO THESE KIDS TODAY.

NONE OF THEM EVER SEEM TO--

--SHOW SOME *RESPECT.*

FOR *WHAT?* WEARING A DUMB COSTUME, FIGHTING "CRIME." FORGET IT, YO!

YOU'RE JUST *ANOTHER* SUPERHERO TEAM. THERE'S *DOZENS* OF 'EM, *BLONDIE.*

THE JSA'S NOT *SPECIAL.*

IT'S *STAR-SPANGLED KID.* *NOT* BLONDIE, JAKEEM.

THE JSA *INSPIRES* PEOPLE. THEY WERE THE *FIRST.* THEY SHOW ALL THOSE OTHER JOKERS *TRYING* TO BE HEROES HOW IT'S *DONE.*

LOOK *AROUND* YOU, JAKEEM. THESE KIDS GREW UP WITH POVERTY AND GANG VIOLENCE THEIR *WHOLE* LIVES. THEY DIDN'T *HAVE* A MAGIC THUNDERBOLT TO HELP THEM OUT. YOU'VE GOT *POTENTIAL,* JAKEEM, BUT YOU'RE *THROWING* IT AWAY.

SLAM

AND ONE *OTHER* THING--IF YOU *EVER* TALK TO MR. TERRIFIC LIKE THAT AGAIN I WILL *PERSONALLY* KICK YOUR *BUTT.*

GOT IT?

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

ANYTHING.

WELL, I MEAN, I KNOW YOU'RE CHRISTIAN-- BUT DO YOU BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION?

I BELIEVE THAT ALL LIVING CREATURES HAVE WITHIN THEM A KIND OF ANIMATING FORCE. WESTERNERS CALL IT THE SOUL. TO THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS IT WAS KNOWN AS BA.

DESPITE WHAT SOME PEOPLE THINK, CHRISTIANITY AND REINCARNATION AREN'T NECESSARILY MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. THE GNOSTIC AND MANICHAEAN SECTS EMBRACED IT.

SO YOU DO THINK IT'S POSSIBLE?

SOULS ARE RESILIENT. SOME MOVE ON TO ANOTHER PLANE OF EXISTENCE WHEN THEIR JOURNEY HERE ON EARTH IS DONE. AND OTHERS--

WHAT ABOUT ME, THEN?

WHO AM I, ZAURIEL?

THEY SAY THAT OUR EYES ARE THE WINDOWS TO THE SOUL. WHEN I LOOK IN YOURS, I SEE A SOUL THAT IS VERY, VERY OLD.

IT'S FUNNY. I REMEMBER SEEING THE LIGHT BACK WHEN I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL THAT NIGHT--

ONE OF THOSE CLASSIC NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES-- GOING DOWN A TUNNEL, SEEING YOUR LOVED ONES CALLING TO YOU. EVERYTHING.

AND THEN I REMEMBER COMING BACK--

MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'M HAVING THE NIGHTMARES NOW.

MAYBE HAVING THAT NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE IS WHAT STARTED UNLOCKING ALL THESE OLDER MEMORIES.

OR PERHAPS THERE IS ANOTHER EXPLANATION.

LIKE WHAT?

WHAT IF KENDRA DIDN'T MAKE IT BACK THAT NIGHT? WHAT IF HER SUICIDE ATTEMPT WAS SUCCESSFUL?

BUT THEN-- THAT WOULD MEAN THAT I'M--

--NOT KENDRA SAUNDERS.

HER SOUL MOVED ON THAT NIGHT.

KENDRA SAUNDERS IS DEAD.

GUARDIAN ANGELS

DAVID GOYER & GEOFF JOHNS
WRITERS

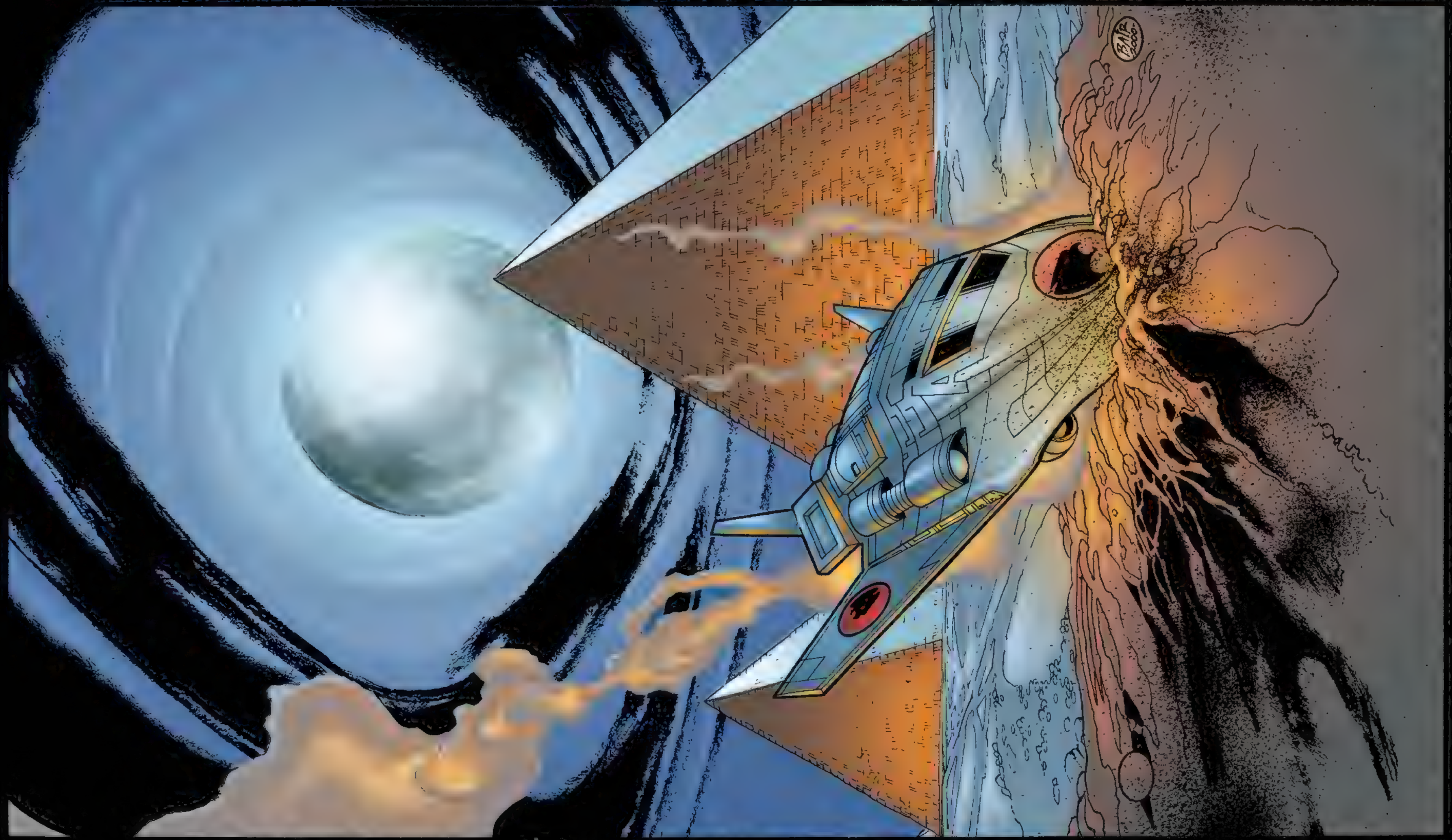
BUZZ
ARTIST

KEN LOPEZ
LETTERER

JOHN KALISZ
COLORIST

HEROIC AGE
SEPARATIONS

PETER TOMASI
EDITOR



JSA #22 cover by

MICHAEL BAIR

HONG KONG.

HALF A WORLD AWAY.

...FOUND YOU... SPEED SAUNDERS!

NOW TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT HAWKGIRL!

ANCIENT EGYPT, THE 19TH DYNASTY.

IN THE TEMPLE OF HORUS AT ERDU.

A THANAGARIAN SHIP--THIS IS INCREDIBLE!

LOST FRIENDS

GOYER & JOHNS	MORALES & BAIR	BUZZ	LOPEZ	KALISZ	HEROIC AGE	TOMASI
writers	artists (top)	artist (bottom)	letterer	colorist	separations	editor

I DIDN'T THINK MY WHEREABOUTS WERE *TRACEABLE.*

TO BLACK CANARY THEY ARE, SPEED. CANARY'S GOT *RESOURCEFUL* FRIENDS.

SHE'S *FULL* OF *SURPRISES*. JUST LIKE *YOU*--

--AND YOUR *GRANDDAUGHTER.*

AND, AGAIN, SPEED, THAT'S *ALL* I'M ASKING FOR HERE. THE *TRUTH* ABOUT *KENDRA*. AS *CHAIRMAN* OF THE *JSA* IT'S MY RESPONS--

STARTING WITH THE *SCARS*, YOU SAID. YES?

IT WASN'T THE *FIRST* TIME FOR ANY OF THAT *NONSENSE*, YOU KNOW.

KENDRA WAS 17. *STILL* IN TROUBLE...WITH A *LOT* OF FOLKS. HER PARENTS DIED THE YEAR BEFORE. I WISH I COULD'VE DONE *MORE* FOR HER.

ONE NIGHT I FOUND HER IN THE BATHROOM... I RACED HER TO THE HOSPITAL. THE DOCTORS WORKED *HARD*...*HARD* AND *LONG*...

AND *THEN*...

WHERE DID YOU *FIND* THIS?

IN THE *DESERT*. IT *FELL* FROM THE *SKY* SOME TIME AGO--

NABU *PROPHESIED* ITS COMING, JUST AS HE FORESAW *YOUR* ARRIVAL.

THEN SHE DIED.

KENDRA SAUNDERS WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AT 9:13 THAT NIGHT.

AT 9:23...TEN MINUTES LATER, JUST AS I WAS CHOKING ON MY OWN TEARS...SHE BEGAN BREATHING AGAIN.

MY HEART SKIPPED A COUPLE BEATS. MY PRAYERS SEEMINGLY ANSWERED.

UNTIL KENDRA OPENED HER EYES.

KENDRA HAD THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GREEN EYES. JUST LIKE MY SON'S.

BUT WHEN SHE OPENED HERS AGAIN, GASPING FOR LIFE...

...THEY HAD CHANGED COLOR. THEY WERE BROWN.

HE SPOKE OF A SKY CHARIOT, CRAFTED BY THE GREAT HAWK GOD HORUS.

IT LIT UP THE NIGHT SKY DURING ITS DESCENT--

THAT'S WHEN I KNEW. IT WASN'T MY GRANDDAUGHTER I WAS LOOKING AT ANYMORE.

IT WAS THE EGYPTIAN PRINCESS *AND* MY COUSIN... *SHIERA HALL*. THE *ORIGINAL HAWKGIRL*.

BUT SHE STILL *BELIEVED* SHE WAS *KENDRA*. I'M NOT SURE *WHY*. THE *SHOCK*, I SUPPOSE... I DON'T REALLY KNOW.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL *US*, SPEED? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL *HER*?

SMASH

WITH *SHIERA* BACK I KNEW *KHUFU*... *CARTER*... COULDN'T BE FAR BEHIND. IT WASN'T UP TO *ME* TO TELL HER.

THERE'S A *BAD AIR* SURROUNDING *HIS* RETURN. I *DO* KNOW THAT.

THE JSA WAS GOING TO HELP PREPARE HER. *PROTECT* HER. FOR *WHATEVER* SHE WAS GOING TO HAVE TO FACE--

--WHEN *HAWKMAN* RETURNED.

"WE LEFT THEBES WHILE THE SKY WAS STILL DARK, *DETERMINED* TO REACH THE CHARIOT BEFORE OUR *ENEMIES* DID."

UPPER NEW YORK STATE.

NO. I CAN'T BE.

I CAN'T BE SHIERA.

I DID NOT DIE!

TRULY WITH THE *MAGIC* AND *MONSTERS* YOU HAVE *FACED* WITH THE JUSTICE SOCIETY--

--THIS *CONCEPT CANNOT* BE THAT DIFFICULT TO *ACCEPT.*

"THE IMPACT--THE *HEAT* FROM THE CRAFT HAD *FUSED* THE SURROUNDING SANDS INTO GLASS.

"THERE WAS A *STILLNESS* IN THE AIR. AND BY RA'S BENEFICENCE, I KNEW THAT WE HAD FOUND SOMETHING *WONDROUS.*"

THERE IS A REASON FOR ALL OF THIS. THE MEMORIES FLOODING IN. THIS IS A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION, NOT FEAR.

YOUR SOUL MATE IS RETURNING. YOUR--

SHUT UP!!

WHAP

JUST SHUT UP AND LEAVE ME ALONE!

MAY THE PRESENCE GUIDE YOUR FLIGHT, CHILD.

"TETH-ADAM, WITH HIS GODLIKE STRENGTH, WAS THE FIRST TO BREACH THE HULL--"

--ƧVΦUV--

WHERE DO YOU THINK SHE'S GONE, SPEED?

ANY FRIENDS? FAMILY?

ASIDE FROM ME, NO.

ANY PLACE YOU THINK SHE WOULD'VE GONE?

YES. I USED TO FIND HER THERE A LOT.

"THE FEMALE WAS AGITATED. NABU WOVE A SPELL WHICH TRANSLATED HER DYING WORDS."

--ξ∇Φυ∇-- ∝ααψ∠ξξ--

--ξ∇Φυ∇-- SYNN-- GORANN SYNN--

"--A GARBLED WARNING WHICH SHE AND HER COMPANION HAD CROSSED THE FIRMAMENT TO CONVEY."

--NTH METAL--

AUSTIN, TEXAS.

ALL OF THIS TROUBLE...THESE THOUGHTS INVADING MINE.

IT'S N-NOT--

--NOT FAIR.

NOTHING IS.

...HAEL ...UNDERS
...955-1997

...TRINA ...SAUNDE...
1953-1997

...VING PARENTS AND FRIEN...
TAKEN TOO EARLY

"WE MOVED THE CRAFT TO THE LOCATION IT NOW RESIDES IN AND SET OUT TO DIVINE ITS MYSTERIES."

I N-NEVER TOLD YOU... HOW MUCH YOU MEANT... I N-NEVER D-DID...

I NEVER DID *ANYTHING* RIGHT.

KENDRA.

"NTH METAL. THE STRANGE OBJECT WHICH HAD **FUELED** THE SKY CHARIOT'S FIRES.

"MUCH OF IT HAD **DECAYED**. BUT A SMALL PORTION OF THE NTH METAL **REMAINED**."

"WE BEGAN WORKING WITH THE METAL. EXPERIMENTING WITH IT. SHAPING IT.

"HIDDEN WITHIN ITS COMPOSITION WERE THE SECRETS OF THE GODS THEMSELVES."

W-WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE, KENDRA.

WE'VE COME TO HELP.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM. YOU NEVER WILL.

"THE POWER OF FLIGHT.

"AND MORE.

"MUCH MORE."

AND I DON'T WANT YOUR HELP!

KRAK

KENDRA, PLEASE. CALM DOWN.

HH.

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?

MY PEOPLE BELIEVE IN A KIND OF SPIRIT-DOUBLE KNOWN AS KA WHICH SURVIVES THE DEATHS OF OUR MATERIAL BODIES.

WHEN WE DIE, THE KA CONTINUES ITS JOURNEY ONWARD TO THE AFTERLIFE. THE REALM OF OSIRIS.

FWAP

DON'T TRY TO "CURE" ME, DOC.

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!

HEY, KID, IT'S US, YOUR FRIENDS.

LET GO.

BUT SINCE THE TIME OF MY BIRTH I HAVE KNOWN THAT MY KA, ALONG WITH THAT OF MY BETROTHED, CHAY-ARA, IS SPECIAL.

THAT OUR JOURNEY WILL CONTINUE HERE. IN THIS WORLD.

IT IS THIS JOURNEY WHICH NABU HAS STRUGGLED TO PREPARE ME FOR.

I SAID LET GO!!

OOF.

I HAVE HER.

WHY'D YOU LET BLACK ADAM TAG ALONG?

HARD TO STOP HIM. BUT WE'LL DISCUSS ADAM LATER, COURTNEY. RIGHT NOW--

--WE'LL TAKE HIS HELP.

THE SKY CHARIOT WAS SENT AS A WARNING. THERE WILL BE A BATTLE FOUGHT THOUSANDS OF YEARS HENCE. IN YOUR ERA, SWIFT ONE.

AN ENEMY WILL RISE AGAIN. ONE WHO THREATENS NOT ONLY THE WORLD OUR VISITORS CAME FROM, BUT THIS WORLD AS WELL.

KHUFU AND HIS BETROTHED WILL PLAY A DECIDING PART IN THAT BATTLE.

DO NOT STRUGGLE.

NNFF!

AAAHH! WHAT ARE YOU--

--WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?

IN PREPARATION FOR THAT BATTLE, WE HAVE CRAFTED A WEAPON, WROUGHT FROM THE PRECIOUS NTH METAL THAT YET REMAINED.

A WAR GAUNTLET. THE CLAW OF HORUS.

AAAHH!

WWWW

KKR KKKTZ

AARRHH!

KRASH

WHOOM

KRAK

A DAY LATER...

I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU'VE *DONE* FOR ME--

--BUT I HAVE TO *TELL* YOU, RETURNING TO MY OWN *TIME* IS NO EASY PROPOSITION.

NONSENSE. YOU HAVE FULLY *RECOVERED* FROM YOUR WOUNDS.

YOU SPOKE OF *STEALING* MY SPEED BEFORE. *SURELY* YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN AND *REVERSE* THE PROCESS THAT *FIRST* BROUGHT YOU HERE.

WELL--

COURAGE, YOUNG MAN. YOUR RETURN IS ALREADY WRITTEN IN THE SANDS.

VZZZZZZ

KRAKOOOM

Terrific

KHUFU--

REMEMBER THIS MOMENT, SWIFT ONE. OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN, A HUNDRED LIFETIMES HENCE.

THIS IS IT! I CAN FEEL MYSELF LOSING MASS. APRROACHING THE SPEED OF LIGHT AGAIN--

HAVE TO CONCENTRATE--

--USE BLACK ADAM'S ENERGY SIGNATURE AS A TETHER--

--FOLLOW IT BACK INTO--

WHERE'D SHE GO?!

I'M RECORDING HER TRAJECTORY RIGHT NOW. I DON'T...

STUPID GIRL.

KRAKOOM

FLASH? THANK YOU FOR THE DRAMATIC ENTRANCE.

WHERE IS SHE?

KENDRA? SHE'S GONE, JAY.

FIRST KENDRA DISAPPEARS IN A FLASH OF LIGHT. NOW YOU RETURN.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

HAWKMAN IS COMING HOME.

WHAT'S--

--HAPPENING?!?

ZZZZZAK-KK

ALL KNEEL BEFORE OUR SAVIOR.

UH...

...OKAY.

MY NAME IS ZITH TARAK, PRINCESS.

WE ARE THE TALON OF TRUTH, THE HIGH PRIESTS OF THE DOWNSIDERS--

--AND WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU HERE TO SAVE OUR WORLD.

WHERE EXACTLY IS HERE?

THE FAR END OF THE POLARIS GALAXY--

--THE PLANET OF THANAGAR.

NEXT ISSUE: HAWKMAN!

ROBINSON
2000

JSA #23 cover by

ANDREW ROBINSON

THE PLANET THANAGAR.

I HEARD THIS PLACE WAS... DESTROYED.

WHAT HAPPENED, ZIHN? WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?

MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER WAS ONCE ADVISOR TO THE THANAGARIAN HIGH COUNCIL. HE CHOSE THE PLANETS AND RACES WE CONQUERED AND ENSLAVED...

...I NEVER BELIEVED TYRANNY WOULD BEFALL US. WE WERE STRONG, RIGHTEOUS. BUT OUR WORLD WAS LEFT DEVASTATED AFTER THE GREAT WAR WITH THE TORMOCKS.

WE WON OUR PLANET BACK, BUT DURING THE REBUILDING, ONIMAR SYNN EMERGED, THE SINEATER.

SYNN SLAUGHTERED THE HIGH COUNCIL AND ENSLAVED OUR PEOPLE. MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVE ONLY TO STOP HIM.

WHO IS THIS SIN-GUY ANYWAY?

AN INHUMI. AN EATER OF SOULS. SOME SAY HE WAS ONE OF THE SEVEN DEVILS THAT PLAGUED OUR WORLD AT THE DAWN OF HISTORY.

S'RI ZIHN, LOOK!

EVER OBSERVANT, YOUNG WAKYT.

SEVEN DEVILS! THEY'VE FOUND US!

THE NTH METAL YOU POSSESS, SH'RI KENDRA, I DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE DISCERNED SO QUICKLY.

THE DARK WINGMEN!

SKRAK

UUF!

SH'RI KENDRA--

--YOUR ARMAMENTS.

THOSE WEAPONS.

I REMEMBER HOW TO USE THEM.

SHIERA HALL'S MEMORIES.

ABOUT TIME THEY DID SOMETHING USEFUL.

LET ME GO, DEMONS!

SHZZAK

SHLATK

AHHT!

SHLUNKT

NN!

COME!

BUT... THEY HAVE THE *KID*, WAKYT.

YOU ARE NEEDED *ELSEWHERE*, SH'RI KENDRA. WE MUST GET YOU TO SAFETY BEFORE THEY *RETURN* WITH *SYNN* HIMSELF.

"THERE IS NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO FOR MY *YOUNG* BROTHER--"

"--BUT PRAY."

PRAY? ARE YOU TELLING DR. FATE THAT THE BEST THING HE CAN DO TO HELP HIS WIFE IS PRAY?

I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT. I'M DOING ALL I--

IT IS NOT ENOUGH, DR. MID-NITE. LYTA HAS BEEN STRICKEN WITH MORE THAN A SIMPLE COMA.

MORDRU IS THE SOURCE OF HER SLUMBER.

FOOL. YOU SPEAK IN BIOLOGICAL TERMS. HOW CAN YOU BE SO--

AS IS THE AMOUNT OF TOXINS THAT ARE ACCUMULATING DUE TO THE BRAIN SWELLING. THE CATALYST MAY HAVE BEEN MYSTICAL BUT THE RESULTS ARE THE SAME. I CAN TREAT HER.

THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH, HECTOR.

LET PIETER DO HIS JOB, YOU DO YOURS.

MY RESPONSIBILITY LIES WITH MY WIFE.

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY *HOW* THAT HELMET IS AFFECTING YOU BUT I WANT TO TALK TO *HECTOR*. *NOT* DR. FATE.

NOW.

SAND, I'M SORRY... I JUST...

I *LOVE* HER SO MUCH. THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING I CAN DO.

THERE *IS*. TRUST PIETER.

RIGHT NOW, KENDRA NEEDS YOU.

WE ALL DO.

DOC, I SHOULDN'T HAVE BLOWN UP LIKE THAT.

NO WORRIES, HECTOR. I'D REACT THE *SAME* WAY.

TAKE CARE OF HER.

I WILL.

OXYGEN LEVELS ARE *STABILIZED.*

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

Help Me

BEEP BEEP BEEP

FOLLOWING THE *TRAJECTORY* OF THE LIGHT PULSE THAT *KIDNAPPED* HAWKGIRL, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT WHAT SPEED SAUNDERS TOLD SAND, I'VE TRACED HER TO THE FAR ENDS OF THE *POLARIS* GALAXY.

SHE'S BEEN TAKEN TO THE PLANET *THANAGAR*. THAT'S WHERE THE JSA IS HEADED.

WE'RE A LITTLE SHORT-HANDED WITH SENTINEL STILL *RECUPERATING*--

JSA

--AND AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, MID-NITE'S STAYING BEHIND.

WILDCAT AND CANARY ARE OFF IN EUROPE, TRACKING DOWN THE COUNCIL.

AND COURTNEY'S STILL GETTING ADJUSTED TO METROPOLIS. NOT TO MENTION HER *MOM* WENT INTO LABOR THIS MORNING.

SO SHE'S SITTING THIS ONE *OUT* TOO.

I'VE BEEN TO THANAGAR. BACK WHEN I WAS WITH THE JLA. IT'S A *ROUGH* PLACE.

THEN YOU NEED MY HELP.

YOU ARE UNDERPOWERED.

YOU NEED MUSCLE.

WE'VE GOT PLENTY.

NO, AL. BLACK ADAM HAS A ROLE IN ALL OF THIS. KENDRA. DR. FATE. THE GAUNTLET NABU GAVE ME. THIS "CLAWS OF HORUS."

IT'S ALL COMING FULL CIRCLE.

I GUESS YOU'RE IN, ADAM.

IT HAS BEEN THOUSANDS OF YEARS SINCE WE FIRST MET, FLASH.

WE HAVE OUR TEAM. BUT THERE'S STILL ONE PROBLEM.

GETTING TO THANAGAR. THE STEEL EAGLE CAN ONLY FLY SO FAST, EVEN WITH ITS NEW IMPROVEMENTS.

DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF WITH OUR JOURNEY TO THE STARS, MR. TERRIFIC.

YOU IMPRESS ME NOW AS YOU DID THEN.

I KNOW A SHORT-CUT.

THE VEIL OF VALMOORA.

IT HIDES THE ENTRANCE TO ANOTHER ONE OF OUR REFUGES.

YOU SAID "OUR"?

SO THERE ARE MORE OF YOU?

WHERE ARE WE?

OH YES--

THOUSANDS.

WHAT YOU SEE HERE ARE THE *REMNANTS* OF THE RESISTANCE.

INDIGENE *THANAGARIANS* AND *DOWNSIDERS* WHO HAVE BANDED TOGETHER *AGAINST* ONIMAR SYNN.

BUT HOW COULD HE *DO* IT?

HOW COULD HE TAKE OVER AN *ENTIRE* WORLD?

BY *CORRUPTING* THE SOUL OF THE PLANET *ITSELF.*

ΕΝΨΤΓΠΡΙΣΦΒΝΦΡΙΗ

"SYNN LIVES IN THE SKY-CITY OF THALRASSA NOW--

"--MAKING A MOCKERY OF THE FORMER TOWERS OF JUSTICE--"

" --WITH HIS HERALDS, CRYPT AND PHADE."

"EVERY LAST OUNCE OF NTH METAL ON THE PLANET--

"EVERY SHRED OF OUR PEOPLE'S RACIAL MEMORY IS NOW SYNN'S TO COMMAND."

SPEAK TO US, CHILD.

WHY HAVE THE HIEROPHANTS BROUGHT THE EARTH-WOMAN HERE?

THEY BELIEVE SHE CAN-- NGGHG--

--HELP THEM FIND THE ONE.

THE ONE?

SR'I CARTER THANAGAR'S REDEEMER.

AND I SAY THANAGAR IS NOT WORTHY OF REDEMPTION.

I HAVE BROKEN THE BACK OF THIS WRETCHED WORLD. AND STILL, MY HUNGER IS UNABATING.

AFTER I HAVE CONSUMED ALL THAT THANAGAR'S PEOPLE HAVE TO OFFER, I WILL TURN TO OTHER WORLDS. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS?

YOUR RESISTANCE, THE "OLD WAYS" YOUR FEEBLE HIEROPHANTS HOPE TO RESURRECT ARE UTTERLY USELESS.

--THE PAIN--

--MERCY-- PLEASE--

BUT OF COURSE, CHILD-

--BUT OF COURSE.

--NYYYARRRRR--

--RRRRRR--

HE'S DEAD.

TAKE HIM TO THE NECROPHISTS--

-- HAVE HIS CORPSE OUTFITTED WITH WINGMEN ARMOR.

AND FIND THE EARTH-WOMAN.

"NTH METAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE LIFEBLOOD OF OUR PLANET--AN ELEMENT UNIQUE TO THANAGAR."

WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW IS THAT THE METAL IS PSYCHO-RECEPTIVE.

IT ABSORBS AND RESPONDS TO CERTAIN EMOTIONAL STATES IN THE SAME WAY THAT QUARTZ CRYSTALS CREATE AN ELECTRIC VOLTAGE.

THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, DURING THE OLD EMPIRE, OUR ANCESTORS DISCOVERED THIS AND USED THE KNOWLEDGE TO CONQUER THE STARS.

FOR, IN THE PROPER HANDS, NTH METAL WAS CAPABLE OF GOVERNING NOT JUST GRAVITY, BUT THE OTHER FUNDAMENTAL FORCES BINDING OUR UNIVERSE AS WELL.

"THE EMPIRE EVENTUALLY COLLAPSED AS ALL EMPIRES DO. AND THE KNOWLEDGE--THE SECRETS OF NTH METAL WERE LOST.

"CENTURIES PASSED. CIVILIZATION PULLED ITSELF BACK FROM THE BRINK--

"--AND A NEW BREED OF EMISSARIES TOOK TO THE STARS IN SEARCH OF WHAT WE'D FORGOTTEN."

"SIXTY EARTH YEARS AGO, A PATHFINDER NAMED PARAN KATAR FOUND IT IN THE MAN YOU KNOW AS CARTER HALL.

"CARTER WAS HIMSELF THE REINCARNATION OF KHUFU--AN EGYPTIAN PRINCE WHO STUMBLED UPON ONE OF OUR LONG-LOST SCOUT SHIPS.

"IN TAKING POSSESSION OF THE SHIP'S CORE, KHUFU AND HIS BETROTHED INHERITED NOT ONLY THE NTH METAL'S WONDROUS PROPERTIES, BUT THE RACIAL MEMORIES IMBEDDED IN IT AS WELL.

SO YOU SEE, KENDRA-- OUR WORLDS, THE DESTINIES OF OUR RACES, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LINKED.

ΞΠΤΕΖ

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WANT FROM ME.

Z

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN SUMMONING CARTER HALL.

BUT HE'S DEAD--

NO. HE IS ALIVE, TRAPPED IN THE NETHER-REALM YOUR OWN SOUL ESCAPED FROM.

WE EXHAUSTED EVERY RESOURCE WE HAD BRINGING YOU HERE. THE REST IS UP TO YOU.

BEFORE US LIES THE WELL OF SPIRITS, A GATEWAY TO THE INFINITE.

YOU AND CARTER HALL SHARE A SPECIAL AFFINITY, KENDRA.

THE SOUL THAT RESIDES IN YOU WILL PROVIDE A KIND OF EMOTIONAL BEACON FOR HIM.

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

THE EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL NEXUS, DR. FATE'S TOWER.

THE LABYRINTH HOLDS DOORWAYS TO EVERY CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE. EVERY DIMENSION KNOWN AND UNKNOWN.

HOW DO WE KNOW WHICH DOOR TO TAKE?

MY POWERS REQUIRE A FOCAL POINT. WHETHER IT BE SOMETHING I HAVE EXPERIENCED OR SOMETHING I MUST WIELD.

THIS GLOBE WAS GIVEN TO KENDRA BY HER PARENTS WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD.

IT IS THE ONLY POSSESSION SHE KEEPS IN HER ROOM AT OUR HEADQUARTERS.

I CAN FOLLOW THE EMOTIONAL RESONANCE OF THIS GLOBE LIKE A TRAIL OF CRUMBS.

THERE.

DO NOT BE ALARMED BY THE LIGHT SHOW.

IT IS QUITE PAINLESS.

VZZZAAKK

THE VEIL OF VALMOORA. THANAGAR.

VZZAK

WHAT-- DO I *DO*?

OPEN YOUR *HEART*. ALLOW THE FLOOD OF *LIFETIMES* AND *MEMORIES* WITHIN YOU TO *FLOW AGAIN*.

CAN YOU FEEL IT--?

--SOMETHING IS--

--HAPPENING.

C-CARTER--?

CARTER. KHUFU.
A *HUNDRED* OTHER LIFETIMES I'VE *KNOWN*.
I *REMEMBER* THEM ALL--

BUT *MOST* OF ALL, I REMEMBER *YOU*--

--MY ONCE AND FUTURE LOVE.

ASCENSION

DAVID GOYER &
GEOFF JOHNS
WRITERS

STEPHEN SADOWSKI
PENCILLER

MICHAEL BAIR
INKER

KEN LOPEZ
LETTERER

JOHN KALISZ
COLORIST

HEROIC AGE
SEPARATIONS

PETER TOMASI
EDITOR

JSA #24 cover by

ANDREW ROBINSON

WHAT IF SOMEONE TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE **NOT YOU?** THAT UPON YOUR **DEATH**, ANOTHER SPIRIT HAD **TRANSMIGRATED** INTO YOUR BODY?

THAT THE **LIFE** YOU'D BEEN LIVING THESE LAST FEW YEARS HAD BEEN A KIND OF **DREAM?**

FOR **KENDRA SAUNDERS**, THAT **NIGHTMARE** HAS BECOME A **REALITY.**

I'M **NOT** WHO YOU **THINK** I AM--

BUT IT **IS** YOU, SHIERA. I CAN **SEE** IT IN YOUR EYES.

ICARUS FELL

DAVID GOYER & GEOFF JOHNS WRITERS	STEPHEN SADOWSKI PENCILLER	MICHAEL BAIR INKER	JOHN KALISZ COLORS	HEROIC AGE SEPARATIONS	KEN LOPEZ LETTERER	STEVE WACKER ASSISTANT ED.	PETER TOMASI EDITOR

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

JAY!

CARTER!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I TOLD YOU BEFORE-- WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS, KENDRA. YOUR FAMILY. THE JSA TAKES CARE OF THEIR OWN.

SO THE JUSTICE SOCIETY IS ACTIVE AGAIN?

MORE THAN EVER. A LOT'S HAPPENED SINCE YOU'VE BEEN GONE, CARTER. A LOT.

SAND'S OUR CHAIRMAN NOW.

CONGRATULATIONS, SANDY. WESLEY WOULD'VE BEEN PROUD.

THANKS. IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU BACK, CARTER.

DO YOU REMEMBER ME, PRINCE?

I REMEMBER YOU, TETH-ADAM. I REMEMBER ALL MY LIVES.

AND NUKLON, I'D RECOGNIZE YOU ANYWHERE.

ACTUALLY, I GO BY THE NAME ATOM SMASHER NOW.

I'M MICHAEL HOLT.

HONORING TERRY SLOANE'S MEMORY I SEE.

WHAT I CAN. MR. TERRIFIC'S A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW.

BUT YOU, FATE--

I CAN TELL THAT'S NOT KENT BENEATH THE HELMET. WHO ARE YOU?

MY GOD-- HECTOR--?!

DAD--

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED--I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN--

IT'S OKAY, WE HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD NOW.

I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT TRUE--

FORGIVE ME, S'RI CARTER, BUT I AM--

ZIHN TARAK, I KNOW. WE'VE MET BEFORE. YOU'RE ONE OF THE HIEROPHANTS.

GET UP, PLEASE. I WON'T HAVE ANYBODY KNEELING BEFORE ME.

WE'VE MET? BUT HOW--?

I TOLD BLACK ADAM THAT I REMEMBER ALL OF MY LIVES. AND IT'S TRUE. EVEN KATAR HOL'S MEMORIES ARE SWIRLING AROUND UP HERE.

BUT THOSE TALES CAN WAIT--

--I TAKE IT THERE'S A CERTAIN URGENCY SURROUNDING MY RESCUE?

ONIMAR SYNN. HE'S RAVAGED OUR HOMEWORLD, TAKEN POSSESSION OF THE SKY CITIES. EVEN NOW, HIS DARK WINGMEN ARE GATHERING ABOVE US.

THEN WE'VE NO TIME TO LOSE--

JAY? I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR ME?

THE CLAW OF HORUS.

I REMEMBER IT NOW.

NABU'S PROPHECY.

MR. CHAIRMAN--

--I THINK IT'S TIME YOU SOUNDED THE BATTLE CRY.

I'LL TAKE THE FIRST WAVE.

WHAT ARE YOU--?

THEIR ARMOR IS LITTERED WITH NTH METAL. THE *CLAW* CAN RENDER SOME OF IT *INERT.*

"ABSORBING ITS ENERGIES--

SKRAKK

"--MAKING IT USELESS."

FATE. ADAM. GET THE REST OF THESE BLACKBIRDS ON THE GROUND WHERE THE NON-FLYERS CAN DO SOME DAMAGE.

CARTER, CAN YOU AND HAWKGIRL--

FOOM

FOOM

SORRY. I KNOW YOU'RE NOT USED TO TAKING ORDERS.

FORGET IT, SAND. YOU'VE GOT A JOB TO DO.

LOOK OUT FOR YOUR TEAM.

POOM

WHAM

SHIERA. STAY CLOSE TO ME.

DON'T CALL ME THAT.

KENDRA, THEN. IT'S DESTINY WE MET AGAIN. WE'RE FATED TO BE TOGETHER.

EMBRACE IT.

KHHK!

DO YOU KNOW HOW CREEPY THAT SOUNDS?

ATOM, I HAVE YOUR BACK.

SKRAK

I DON'T NEED TO BE "COVERED."

UNHAM

GO PLAY *TEAMMATE* WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

RELAX, AL. WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE.

UH HUH. FOR NOW.

WHAM

KRAK

SLAM

HEAVIER GRAVITY IS *DAMPENING* MY SEISMIC POWERS. HOLDING THE OTHERS BACK TOO.

KRAKOOM

IT'S HARD TO *SEE* WHERE EVERYONE IS, SO MANY OF THESE THINGS.

TROUBLE AHEAD, SAND.

WE'VE GOT MORE COMPANY. *LIVING,* THIS TIME.

12 OBJECTS.
1.5 KILOMETERS.
APPROACHING AT 132 KPH.
AMBIENT TEMPERATURE:
44 DEGREES.

2 OBJECTS.
1.3 KILOMETERS.
APPROACHING AT 144 KPH.
AMBIENT TEMPERATURE:
98 DEGREES

HUJNT NUYT TI NHU--

HELLO THERE.

NICE CAPE!

SNGG

SPEAKING IN TONGUES, SORCERER?

HUSH NOW. NO MORE MAGIC.

VVXXXX

HCKK.

TIME TO CLEAN UP, CRYPT.

BUT OF COURSE, PHADE.

HOLD MY BELT.

KK!

WHOOM

SKRKK

UHH!

GOOD. I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING BIG TO HIT.

FEEDING TIME.

FWOOOSH

SHRRRIP

WHAT THE...

FWOOOSHH

...HELL IS--

HMMFFF!

SKRATCH

WHAK WHAK WHAK WHAK

LET HIM OUT, DAMN YOU!

LET H-HIM...

SSSS

FWOOSH

AAAHHHH!

TRY NOT TO MOVE, JAY.

SOUND ADVICE.

FLASH!

FOOM

AHH.

ONIMAR SYNN, I PRESUME.

YOU ARE AN *ABLE* LEADER, BUT SOME WORDS OF *WISDOM*. WHEN ON THE *BATTLEFIELD*, DO NOT OPENLY GIVE ORDERS.

YOU ARE *IDENTIFYING* YOUR *RANK*.

THOOSH

SAND! WH-WHAT DID YOU--

I SIMPLY SEVERED THE BONDS OF HIS ATOMS AS EASILY AS I NEGATED YOUR PRECIOUS FRICTION-LESS AURA.

GRAVITY IS JUST AS EFFORTLESSLY MANIPULATED.

NNN!

GET OFF MY PLANET, STRONG MAN.

THERE ARE TOO MANY. I CAN'T--

KRAK

WHAK

BEAT THE ODDS, KENDRA.

STAY STRONG.

CARTER!

YOU ARE A DREAMER!

SHZAM

THE FLOATING CITY OF THALRASSA.

"HE'S COVERED IN SECOND DEGREE BURNS. WISH MID-NITE WAS HERE."

I'M F-FINE, TERRIFIC.

TAKE IT EASY, JAY. YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO PROVE.

Terrific

HOW DID SYNN DO ALL THIS? NTH METAL-- I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST AN ANTIGRAVITY ELEMENT.

NTH METAL CONTROLS *MORE* THAN JUST *GRAVITY*.

GIVEN THE RIGHT KNOWLEDGE AND QUANTITY, THE FOUR FUNDAMENTAL FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE ARE AT SYNN'S FINGERTIPS.

THE GRAND UNIFIED THEORY. OF COURSE. THE FOUR FORCES THAT SEPARATED AT THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE. GRAVITY.

ELECTROMAGNETISM. WHICH OBVIOUSLY ENABLED HIM TO OBLITERATE FLASH'S PROTECTIVE FIELD. THE STRONG FORCE WHICH BINDS ATOMS TOGETHER. AND THE WEAK FORCE WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RADIOACTIVE DECAY--

ENOUGH!

LET'S GET BACK TO REALITY HERE FOR A SECOND, *HAWKMAN.*

KENDRA, CALM--

IT'S OKAY, JAY. YOU KNOW HOW SHE CAN GET. A *TEMPER* SOMETIMES.

STOP THAT. OKAY? YOU *DON'T* KNOW ME. SO *STOP.*

SAND AND AL ARE *GONE.* JAY IS *HURT.* HECTOR CAN'T *SPEAK.* SO *SPELLS* ARE OUT OF THE *QUESTION.*

AND I'M NOT ME...

KENDRA?

IT WAS JUST SO MUCH EASIER, JAY... SO MUCH EASIER BEFORE... BEFORE I *CARED* ABOUT ANY OF YOU.

TOUCHING.

HAWKMAN AND HAWKGIRL. YOU WILL COME WITH ME.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF HISTORY'S GRAND VILLAINS DIDN'T THINK OF THEMSELVES AS SUCH.

I HARBOR NO SUCH ILLUSIONS. I AM PERVERSE. A SADIST, AT HEART. AND I HAVE HAD THOUSANDS OF YEARS TO REFLECT UPON THIS.

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE A TRULY NOBLE SPIRIT, CARTER.

TELL ME. DO YOU THINK IT'S GENETIC?

I THINK I'M TIRED OF HEARING YOU PONTIFICATE. JUST KILL US AND GET IT OVER WITH.

ALL IN GOOD TIME. I'M TRYING TO ILLUSTRATE A POINT HERE.

YOU'RE A HERO, YES? AN EXAMPLE TO THE PEOPLE OF EARTH. YOUR NAMESAKE, KATAR, WAS A HERO HERE AS WELL.

INDEED, THE MERE PROMISE OF YOUR RETURN HAS DONE MORE TO RALLY THE POPULATION OF THANAGAR THAN THE HEIROPHANTS COULD'VE HOPED FOR.

ONE MUST NECESSARILY BE CAREFUL IN DISPENSING WITH ONE'S ENEMIES, LEST THEY BECOME MARTYRS.

THE MOST PRUDENT COURSE OF ACTION IS TO DESPOIL A HERO'S IMAGE. STRIP HIM OF HIS GRANDEUR.

REDUCE HIM TO ANONYMITY--

SOME EIGHTEEN THOUSAND FEET *BENEATH* US IS AN ARID PATCH OF UNFORGIVING LAND COLLOQUIALLY KNOWN AS THE *PLAIN OF BONES.*

I *STARTED* WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE *HIGH* COUNCIL, LETTING THEM FALL ONE BY ONE. SINCE THEN, WE'VE TOSSED--

--HOW *MANY* PEOPLE OFF THESE PARAPETS, PHADE?

OVER FIVE *THOUSAND.*

THAT MANY? I HADN'T REALIZED.

IN ANY EVENT, THE *BODIES* ARE SCATTERED OVER *MILES.* THE *RAZOR BIRDS* PICK THEM *CLEAN.* THE SUN BLEACHES WHAT REMAINS--

IT'S REALLY QUITE *DRAMATIC.*

OH GOD--

IT'S GOING TO BE *OKAY,* KENDRA.

MADDENING.

IT *ASTONISHES* ME THAT YOU COULD STILL SAY THAT.

JSA #25 cover by

ANDREW ROBINSON

3,000 MILES ABOVE **THANAGAR** AND FALLING **FAST.**

AT A RATE OF DESCENT EXCEEDING 180 MILES PER HOUR, IT IS NEARLY **IMPOSSIBLE** TO CATCH YOUR BREATH, MUCH LESS THINK PROACTIVELY--

--BUT **SURVIVING** IS WHAT CARTER HALL DOES **BEST.**

KENDRA--

--DO YOU--TRUST ME?!

--Y-YES--

--THEN PLEASE--

-- FORGIVE ME--

-- FOR WHAT I AM ABOUT--

--TO DO!

CARTER!!!

CARTER HALL HAS JUST **ABANDONED** THE WOMAN HE LOVES.

BUT HE CAN'T **THINK** ABOUT THAT NOW--

WHAT HE **NEEDS** TO THINK ABOUT IS **WIND RESISTANCE**--

--**ACCELERATING** THE RATE OF HIS FREEFALL--

--THE GRAVITATIONAL ATTRACTION OF THANAGAR RELATIVE TO EARTH--

--AND THE SQUADRON OF **DARK WINGMEN** PATROLLING THE SKIES JUST **BENEATH** HIM.

FWAM

KRAK

FNOK

SKRAK

GOTCHA!

SEVEN DEVILS

GOYER & JOHNS-writers • SADOWSKI-penciller • BAIR, MEIKIS, NEARY, LEIGH-inkers
KALISZ-colorist • HEROIC AGE-separations • LOPEZ-letterer • WACKER-assistant editor
TOMASI-editor

I'M SORRY I HAD TO DO THAT. THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TIME TO EXPLAIN--

ARE YOU ALL RIGH--

CRAK

LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT RIGHT NOW, CARTER--

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU AND I ARE STARTING BACK AT SQUARE ONE. SO YOU CAN FORGET ALL THE TIME AFTER TIME JUNK, ALL RIGHT? 'CAUSE IT'S TIRED.

THE PAST IS THE PAST AND IF YOU EVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN--

WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU SMILING ABOUT?!

NOTHING. IT'S JUST-- YOU ALWAYS HAD A GOOD RIGHT.

THE FLOATING CITY OF THALRASSA. HOME TO ONIMAR SYNN--

--AND PRISON TO JSA MEMBERS FLASH, MR. TERRIFIC AND DR. FATE.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, TERRIFIC?

YES. I THINK THE NTH METAL WALLS OF THIS PRISON ARE WHAT'S ALLOWING SYNN TO KEEP YOUR *AURA* OUT OF SYNC, KEEP FATE *SILENT*, INCAPABLE OF CASTING--

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, MICHAEL.

YOU'VE BEEN *DISTANT* THIS ENTIRE TRIP. ONLY OPENING UP WHEN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT *SCIENTIFIC* MUMBO JUMBO.

WHAT'S THE DEAL?

NOTHING...IT'S... I HAVE A *HARD* TIME BELIEVING IN ALL THIS.

OTHER *WORLDS*?

NO. *REINCARNATION*. EVERLASTING *LOVE*...

SOULS, JAY.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN *SOULS*.

I'VE ALWAYS EXCELLED AT EVERYTHING I TRIED TO DO. ATHLETICS. ACADEMICS.

AND I WAS A GOOD HUSBAND, DAMMIT.

BUT WHEN MY WIFE, PAULA, WAS KILLED IN A CAR ACCIDENT... SHE WAS GONE. I DIDN'T FEEL HER "SOUL" AROUND ME. DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING.

I... MICHAEL... A LOT OF THE HEROES TODAY WONDER WHY I LOOK AFTER THEM. WHY I TREAT THEM LIKE THE CHILDREN JOAN AND I NEVER HAD.

AFTER THE WAR, JOAN AND I FOUND OUT SHE COULDN'T HAVE CHILDREN. SO WE PULLED WHAT STRINGS WE COULD, AND WE ADOPTED.

TWO WEEKS AFTER HE CAME INTO OUR LIVES, PNEUMONIA TOOK HIM AWAY.

TWO WEEKS. IT WAS JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM. FOR ME TO GET USED TO THE IDEA OF BEING A FATHER.

I REALLY DID LOVE IT.

WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT BELIEFS, MICHAEL. BUT IF THIS WHOLE DAMN UNIVERSE HAS ANY JUSTICE IN IT, YOU'LL SEE YOUR WIFE AGAIN.

AND I'LL SEE MY LITTLE BOY.

Terrific

LET'S FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE.

THERE'S WORK TO DO.

THE GRAND AERIE, FORMER CHAMBERS OF THANAGAR'S HIGH MOR.

"THESE WINGMEN OF YOURS ARE AN ABOMINATION--

BUT THEY ARE MEANT TO BE, DEAR TARAK. A DARK REFLECTION OF ALL THAT YOUR PEOPLE ABHOR.

HEAR ME NOW, HOLY MAN. I WILL NOT REST UNTIL THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THANAGAR HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO AN ARMY OF THE DEAD.

AND THEN WHAT?

AND THEN MY FLOCK WILL TAKE WING FROM THIS WORLD. THANAGAR IS MERELY THE BEGINNING. BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT.

THERE IS EARTH, OF COURSE--A WORLD RIPE FOR THE PICKING-- AND A MULTITUDE OF OTHERS.

YOUR PEOPLE BUILT THEIR EMPIRE ON AGGRESSION AND DOMINANCE.

WHY, EVEN DEAR PHADE AND CRYPT HERE NUMBER THEMSELVES AMONGST THE RACES YOU'VE CONQUERED.

THANAGAR'S DAYS OF SUPREMACY ARE OVER.

WITH THE NTH METAL NOW AT MY BECK AND CALL, THE UNIVERSE IS A BLANK CANVAS ON WHICH I WILL SKETCH MY REVENGE.

YOUR ASPIRATIONS RING HOLLOW.

DO THEY?

TELL ME, TARAK, HOW MANY *DEMONS* HAUNT THE PAGES OF YOUR *SCRIPTURES?*

--S-SEVEN--

FZZAKKK

SEVEN DEVILS. SEVEN HEAVENS. SEVEN HELLS-- WHAT A REMARKABLY *CONSISTENT* BELIEF SYSTEM.

AND OF THOSE DEVILS, WAS THERE NOT *ONE* FEARED BEYOND *ALL OTHERS?*

KNM

ONIMAR SYNN.

BOUND AND FETTERED BY YOUR LEGENDARY CHAMPION *KALMORAN. IMPRISONED* IN A VAULT OF NTH METAL.

DID I NOT *VOW* I WOULD ONE DAY *RETURN?* WAS MY *COMING* NOT *PRESAGED FOR MILLENNIA?*

FZZAKK

CRYPT? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M FINE, PHADE--

THE WINDS--JUST A LITTLE SAND IN MY EYE.

SNAP

KRAK

OKAY, HALL--WE'VE PULLED A SWITCHEROO AND WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE EMERALD CITY. *NOW* WHAT?

KATAR HOL *USED* TO BE A *POLICEMAN* HERE, ONE OF THE CITY'S *ELITE*. HE HAD *KNOWLEDGE* OF THE SECRET CHAMBERS AND PASSAGES THAT RIDDLE THALRASSA--

AND SINCE THERE'S *NOW* A LITTLE BIT OF *KATAR* IN *ME*--

--I HAVE *ACCESS* TO THAT KNOWLEDGE *TOO*.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID *KATAR* WAS *DEAD*?

HE *IS*.

IN A WAY.

KATAR'S ESSENCE WAS TAKEN WHEN HE STEPPED INTO THE AVATAR DIMENSION I WAS PULLED FROM. WE WERE SEPARATED. I *SURVIVED*.

BUT SOME OF HIS MEMORIES STILL *FLOAT* IN MY HEAD.

ONE QUESTION, THEN--

THAT ENERGY SYNN USED TO TAKE US OUT EARLIER--SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED TO ME A FEW WEEKS AGO.

I WAS IN A BAD SITUATION, FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE--THEN SUDDENLY, THESE IMAGES STARTED FLOODING MY BRAIN--

BEFORE I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, TIGRESS WAS ON THE FLOOR OUT COLD AND I WAS--

--I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS.

PSYCHIC BACKLASH. IT WAS THE NTH METAL WINGS, SOAKING UP ALL THE LIFETIMES YOU'VE LIVED--

THE SHOCK OF NEARLY DYING MUST'VE UNLEASHED ALL THOSE REPRESSED PAST-LIFE MEMORIES AT ONCE.

SYNN APPLIED THE SAME PRINCIPLE, ALBEIT WITH A LITTLE MORE CONTROL.

WE'RE IN FOR QUITE A BATTLE.

WEAKPOINT IN MATING SURFACES

THERE'S A *FAULT* IN THE PRISON'S CONSTRUCTION RIGHT HERE.

YOU *SURE* ABOUT THIS, JAY? WITH YOUR PROTECTIVE AURA TEMPORARILY REMOVED, THE *FRICTION* WILL *BURN* YOU RIGHT--

HEY, N-NO *PAIN*--

--NO *GAIN*!

VVSSSSS

EH?

KRAK

DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD THAT IN YOU, HECTOR.

WHEEEEHHHH!!

STORM'S GETTING WORSE.

CAN'T SEE ONE FOOT--

WINGMEN. TURN AROUND. WE ARE--

KRAKK

I SEE YOU WISH TO BECOME A MARTYR AFTER ALL.

THE BOTH OF YOU.

DID YOU THINK I WOULD NOT SENSE YOUR PRESENCE, CARTER?

I GUESS WE HOPED YOU WOULDN'T. YOU'RE A BUSY GUY, RIGHT?

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME.

I AM ALL-POWERFUL.

I AM A GOD.

KRAKOOM

BOOM

WHAM

THOOM

JAY, CAN YOU FEEL ANY CHANGE?

NO. AS LONG AS SYNN'S ACTIVE, HECTOR AND I ARE SHACKLED.

AND I DOUBT ADAM WILL HAVE ANY LUCK.

KRAK

OVER HERE!

HAWKMAN!

WE CAN TAKE THAT SKIFF--

--AS SOON AS THE SANDSTORM SETTLES DOWN A BIT. STRANGE, THOUGH.

IT'S GROUNDING THE WINGMEN. LIKE IT HAS A MIND OF ITS--

MAN, THAT HURT.

SAND, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M FINE, KENDRA. JUST STILL A LITTLE TINGLY. PULLING YOURSELF TOGETHER ATOM BY ATOM DOES THAT TO A PERSON, I GUESS.

HEY, SANDMAN--

--YOU HAVEN'T FELT ANYTHING YET!

AAA! N-NO. STAY...

KKRK

UGHH...

WHO'S NEXT?

SLISSH

SKLATCH

THE SURFACE OF THANAGAR...

FWAM

KRAKK

KRAKK

SKRRIIIITCH

NEED A HAND?

YOU WILL NEED MORE THAN THAT.

I SUGGEST YOU PRAY TO WHATEVER GODS YOU WORSHIP.

SWHOOM!

NEARLY EVERY IOTA OF YOUR PRECIOUS NTH METAL IS MINE TO CONTROL.

--EVERY VEIN AND CAVERNOUS LODE OF RAW ORE--

KKKRRRKKK

--EVERY ALLOY AND PURIFIED INGOT--

FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES--

--I AM THANAGAR!!!

ATOM SMASHER, ARE YOU CAPABLE OF INCREASING YOUR SIZE TO *MATCH* HIM?

I CAN SURE AS *HELL* TRY...

SCATTER!

RKKKK

FWOOM

BLACK ADAM DOES NOT "SCATTER"!

WHAT IS IT WITH GUYS AND SIZE?

IT'S A TESTOSTERONE THING, RIGHT?

IT'S A PRACTICAL THING.

YOU'VE ANNOYED ME LONG ENOUGH.

KKRRR

KOOM

FAIRPLAY

I'LL

TAKE YOU

DOWN, PAL--

--IF I HAVE TO DO IT *PIECE PIECE.*

KRAKOOM

INSPIRING. *TRULY.*

WHAMM

WHAT THE HELL ARE WE GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT THE OTHERS COULDN'T?

SYNN'S BODY IS COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF NTH METAL.

THWOOM

WE CAN WREST CONTROL OF THAT NTH METAL.

THE CLAW OF HORUS IS A PIECE OF HIM NOW. WE CAN INFLUENCE IT. USE IT AS THE CATALYST TO RIP HIM APART.

TOGETHER OUR SOULS ARE STRONGER THAN SYNN'S.

OUR PASSION WILL SUPERSEDE HIS WILL.

GIVE ME YOUR HAND.

THIS ISN'T--

DON'T *FIGHT* IT, KENDRA.

BELIEVE IN OUR *DESTINY.*

BELIEVE IN *US.*

NO.

NOOO!

KA-BOOM

SKKRR

NOOOOO!

WARDOG

KRANG!

HEY. WE DID IT.

WE DID INDEED, MY LOVE. WE DID INDEED.

HOLD ON, CARTER.

LOOK...

I'M NOT GOING TO *LIE* AND TELL YOU I DIDN'T FEEL *ANYTHING* UP THERE. THAT I'M NOT *ATTRACTED* TO YOU, BUT...

YOU HAVE TO STEP *BACK* A BIT. GIVE ME SOME TIME.

TIME TO SORT THINGS OUT.

WHATEVER YOU NEED, SHI--

KENDRA.

WELL, NOW--

--THAT WASN'T SO BAD... OW... *WAS* IT?

I LOVE YOU GUYS.

NOW LET'S GO *HOME.*

BEFORE YOU LEAVE--

--A THANK-YOU IS IN ORDER.

THANAGAR IS *FREE* AGAIN. FREE TO START *ANEW.*

ANY IDEAS ON HOW WE'RE GETTING HOME?

MY *VOICE* HAS RETURNED, BUT MY *ARSENAL* OF *SPELLS* IS EXHAUSTED FOR THE MOMENT.

ALLOW ME, MAGE.

A *WELL OF SPIRITS* WILL SEE YOU BACK SAFELY.

THANK-YOU, S'RI CARTER. WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE.

MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT YOU HAVE TO TAKE LEAVE OF US SO SOON.

I'LL BE BACK, TARAK. MY HEART BELONGS TO BOTH WORLDS NOW. YOU CAN BE SURE OF THAT.

WHAT--? WHERE ARE WE?

WESLEY DODDS'S OLD BROWNSTONE. IT'S OUR NEW HEADQUARTERS.

WE HAVE OUR *OWN* *MUSEUM* NOW?

SOME TIME LATER...

I HAVE TO SAY, IF YOU'D TOLD ME A FEW YEARS AGO THAT THE FOUR OF US WOULD BE STANDING HERE TODAY, I *NEVER* WOULD'VE BELIEVED IT.

BEEN QUITE A *RIDE*, HASN'T IT?

WHEN I *THINK* OF WHO WE'VE LOST *ALREADY*-- McNIDER AND THE OTHERS. WESLEY. NOW, TED. AND POOR JOHNNY THUNDER-- WASTING AWAY FROM ALZHEIMER'S--

BY ALL RIGHTS, THE FOUR OF US *SHOULD* BE SIX FEET UNDER. WE'VE *CHEATED* DEATH A *THOUSAND* TIMES.

BARRY ALLEN, HAL JORDAN, KATAR HOL--MY GOD, WE'VE OUTLIVED OUR OWN NAME-SAKES. AND EVEN THE NEW KIDS LIKE WALLY AND KYLE ARE PRACTICALLY OLD HANDS NOW--

I CAN'T HELP WONDERING IF THE WORLD STILL HAS A PLACE FOR HEROES LIKE US.

MORE THAN EVER, I'D SAY. THE WAY I SEE IT, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE HEROES THAT CAME AFTER US, CARTER.

THE PEOPLE DOWN THERE IN THE STREETS--

"--THE PEOPLE THAT REALLY MATTER--

"--THEY LOOK UP TO TEAMS LIKE THE TITANS AND THE LEAGUE--

HEY!! KIDS COMICS

"--BUT THE TITANS AND THE LEAGUE--

--THEY LOOK UP TO US.

QUIS CUSTODIET IPSOS CUSTODES.

WHO WATCHES THE WATCHMEN.

YEP.

EVERYONE'S HERE NOW. YOU COMING?

YES.

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW *EXCITED* I AM ABOUT HAVING YOU *BACK* WITH US, CARTER --

I CAN ONLY *IMAGINE* WHAT MUST BE GOING THROUGH YOUR HEAD RIGHT NOW--

I'LL *TELL* YOU WHAT'S GOING THROUGH MY HEAD, SAND.

IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME.

JSA

JSA: OUR WORLDS AT WAR #1 cover by

JAE LEE

IT WON'T BE EASY, SAND.

YOU CAN COUNT ON THE JSA... MR. PRESIDENT.

...GOD SPEED.

HATE TAKING ORDERS FROM HIM.

HAVE AL PREP THE STAR RACER AND CALL IN THE RESERVES, JAY.

THE RESERVES. WHICH ONES?

ALL OF THEM.

THIS IS WAR.

JSA ROLL CALL

SAND
SENTINEL
THE FLASH
WILDCAT
HAWKMAN
HAWKGIRL
AIR WAVE
J.J. THUNDER & THUNDERBOLT
S.T.R.I.P.E.
BLACK ADAM
NEMESIS
POWER GIRL
THE SHINING KNIGHT
VIGILANTE
DR. FATE
THE STAR-SPANGLED KID
MR. TERRIFIC
DR. MID-NITE
BLACK CANARY
ATOM-SMASHER
BLACK CONDOR
THE RAY
IRON MUNRO
JADE
DAMAGE
THE PATRIOT
PHANTOM LADY
DR. OCCULT

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. THE PRESIDENT HAS GIVEN THE JSA A TASK.

THE ALL★STARS

GEOFF JOHNS	JAVIER SALTARES	RAY KRYSSING	KEN LOPEZ	TOM McCRAW	HEROIC AGE	STEPHEN WACKER	PETER TOMASI
WRITER	PENCILLER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	SEPARATIONS	ASS'T EDITOR	EDITOR

WE GATHERED EVERYONE AVAILABLE.

OUR MISSION COULD TURN THE *TIDE* OF THIS *WAR*. IT'S NOT GOING TO BE A WALK IN THE PARK, EVEN *WITH* THE AMOUNT OF *POWER* IN HERE--

--BUT WE'VE GOT NO OTHER CHOICE. IT'S *DO* OR *DIE* TIME.

MR. TERRIFIC...

I MANAGED TO GET MY HANDS INSIDE ONE OF IMPERIEX'S FALLEN *PROBES*. COUPLED WITH WHAT THE ALIEN ALLIES HAVE REPORTED WE'VE COME UP WITH A PLAN.

FWNK!

IMPERIEX PRIME IS CREATING THESE PROBES FROM HIMSELF. WHENEVER WE DESTROY ONE, THE ENERGY RELEASED IS CHANNELLED BACK TO HIS SHIP, WHICH IN TURN FEEDS IT RIGHT BACK AT HIM. THIS STARTS THE PROCESS ALL OVER AGAIN GIVING HIM AN UNLIMITED SUPPLY OF SOLDIERS. WE NEED TO SEVER THIS LINK.

FWNK!

FWNK!

IT'S NOT GOING TO BE AS EASY AS *UNPLUGGING A TOASTER* --

--HIS SHIP IS THE SIZE OF *JUPITER*.

JUPITER? AS IN THE *PLANET*? SHOULD WE GIVE UP *NOW* OR *AFTER* WE GET OUR BUTTS KICKED?

EVERYONE'S *SEEN* WHAT *IMPERIEX* CAN DO.

LET HIM *FINISH*, RAY.

YO, THE HUMAN *FLASHLIGHT* IS RIGHT.

HOW THE $#%@ ARE WE SUPPOSED TO *TRASH* SOMETHING *THAT* BIG?

UH... YEAH! WHAT *HE* SAID.

WE DON'T NEED TO *DESTROY* IT...JUST SEVER THE POWER SUPPLY. MAKE IMPERIEX PRESS HIS BATTLE *FORWARD* AND LEAVE HIM *WITHOUT* SOMEWHERE TO *RETREAT*. THE *DOOMSDAY PROJECT* WILL GIVE US THE *IN* WE NEED.

LOOK... *CALM* DOWN, EVERYONE.

YOU HAVE TO--

MAYBE WE SHOULD...

LET'S JUST HIT...

WILDCAT, I THINK...

LISTEN!

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SAVING OUR *UNIVERSE*, DAMMIT. PEOPLE ARE *DYING* BACK HOME. *HEROES* HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR *LIVES*.

YES, THE *ODDS* ARE AGAINST US. *SO WHAT?*

WHEN *HAVEN'T* THEY BEEN?

TOGETHER WE CAN *DO* THIS.

OKAY.

LET'S DO IT!

YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE A GUY LIKE THAT, HAWKGIRL.

HE'S NOT "MINE."

ALL YOURS, KID.

MN.

...THANKS, HAWKMAN.

ONCE ABOARD THE BATTLESHIP, WE'LL BE IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION THANKS TO AIR WAVE THESE EAR PIECES ARE ATTUNED TO HIS BIOLOGICAL FREQUENCY.

CHAT AWAY ON WHATEVER YOU LIKE. I'LL BE SCRAMBLING ALL SIGNALS, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR IMPERIEX TO DECIPHER.

GOING BACK TO THE ORIGINAL COSTUME AND CODE NAME, AIR WAVE?

YEP. THE JSA IS ABOUT LEGACY, RIGHT?

YOUR FATHER WOULD BE PROUD.

AYE. 'TIS LIKE A SMALL CELL PHONE, LASS.

COURTESY OF MR. TERRIFIC, SHINING KNIGHT. JSA PATENTED AND APPROVED.

THE FUTURE NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME.

WE'VE GOT AN HOUR BEFORE WE DOCK.

I SUGGEST YOU GET SOME REST.

JSA

HEY, POWER CHICK. WHERE YOU BEEN HIDIN'?

YOU LOOK LIKE *HELL*, TED.

EVER *WASH* THAT COSTUME?

I BEEN BUSY.

WHAT ARE *YOU* SMILING AT?

CAN I BE YOU WHEN I GROW UP?

DAD...

JUST STICK *CLOSE* TO ME, ALL RIGHT? I DIDN'T WANT YOU COMING, JADE. I WORRY ABOUT YOU.

TOUGH. I'M *HERE*, DAD.

AND REMEMBER, I'M HERE FOR *YOU*.

SOUNDS LIKE *FUN*. LIKE A "GIRL SUPERHEROES" CLUB?

NOT EXACTLY, PHANTOM LADY. BUT WITH A LITTLE *TRAINING* AND YOUR *STEALTH* ABILITIES...

ORACLE COULD PROBABLY USE YOU.

STOP *STARING*, MID-NITE.

MAN, ALL THIS *STARLIGHT*. IT'S *POWERING* ME UP. YEAH... WE *ARE* GONNA KICK *TAIL*.

YA REMIND ME OF YOUR DAD, SON.

HUH?

I REMEMBER HIM FROM THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON. WHEN EVERY SUPER-HERO AROUND JOINED UP DURING WORLD WAR II.

I'M THE *EMBODIMENT* OF THE *AMERICAN SPIRIT* ...ALL WHO'VE LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR FREEDOM.

CALL ME THE *PATRIOT*.

UH... *COOL*. WORKS FOR ME.

VIGILANTE. DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A *LEGACY* HERO... CARRYING ON FOR GREG SAUNDERS?

NO. JUST SHARE HIS NAME... THOUGH THAT DIDN'T KEEP SAND FROM ASKING FOR MY HELP. I'M A BOUNTY HUNTER-- AND IMPERIEX HAS A *HELLUVA* PRICE ON HIS HEAD.

WHAT'S YOUR DEAL, SWEET-HEART?

I CARRY ON FOR PAUL KIRK, MANHUNTER. MY NAME IS *NEMESIS*.

AND WHAT DO YOU DO, "NEMESIS"?

I LIVE *ONLY* TO DESTROY MY FATHER'S WORK.

THAT *PAY* WELL?

LIKE THE NEW COSTUME, AL.

MORE IN LINE WITH THE ORIGINAL *ATOM*.

I FEEL LIKE... I DON'T KNOW. WE'RE BOTH CARRYING ON THE LEGACY OF YOUR *FATHER*.

IN A WAY, WE'RE BROTHERS. I--

HOLY--

IT'S...

" IT'S UNBELIEVABLE."

COMMUNICATION LINK IS *UP*, SAND. GO AHEAD.

WE'RE APPROACHING THE SHIP AND FEEDING ALL OUR *RESERVE* POWER INTO THE *STEALTH* DRIVES.

A PREVIOUS FAILED ATTACK HAS LEFT A CLOUD OF DEBRIS. THIS WILL HELP COVER OUR APPROACH.

YOU MAY HEAR SOME *STATIC* IN YOUR COM-LINKS--

--IT-;KZZZ;-- PASS AS SOON AS WE DOCK.

I--;KZZZ;-- ALL TO PLAY THIS ONE SAFE. AND MOST *IMPORTANT*--

--WATCH EACH OTHER'S *BACKS*.

SINCE *WHEN* DID BLACK ADAM JOIN THE JSA?

HE *DIDN'T*, GRANT. HE'S JUST LOOKING FOR A *"GET OUT OF JAIL FREE"* CARD.

I'LL GET RID OF HIM SOON ENOUGH.

NEXT TIME YOU DO NOT WISH ME TO HEAR YOU, *ATOM-SMASHER*, I *SUGGEST* YOU LOWER YOUR VOICE.

WHO SAID I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO *HEAR* ME?

FWOOOSHH

KNOCK IT OFF, YOU TWO.

THERE'S NO TIME FOR CONFLICT WITHIN THE RANKS. YOU GOT TH--

KRAKOOM

SWOOSH

DAMMIT, IMPERIEX'S ARMY ALREADY KNOWS WE'RE HERE.

MUST HAVE SEEN RIGHT THROUGH OUR REFLECTIVE SHIELDS.

SENTINEL! SEAL THAT BREACH NOW!

THOSE THAT CAN TAKE THE PUNISHMENT OF SPACE--

--TAKE THAT MONSTER OUT OF HERE!

CHANK

KRAK

OF COURSE, FATHER.

WHANGGG

YOUR... STRENGTH IMPRESSES ME.

SHUT UP AND FIGHT.

MAN, I FORGOT HOW THIS FEELS. BEEN AWHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN THIS MUCH ACTION.

FIZZAK

RAY, LOOK OUT!

WHAWK

RNN.

THEY KEEP ON COMIN'!! IT'S LIKE THE SHIP'S *BUILDING* THESE THINGS AS FAST AS WE TAKE THEM OUT.

BUILDING THEM RIGHT OUT *HERE*. WE--

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED, S.T.R.I.P.E?

THEY JUST... DISAPPEARED. LIKE THEIR *ATOMS* WERE *UNZIPPED*.

UH... I THINK--

--I THINK *DR. FATE* GOT *MAD*.

ENOUGH OF THIS *FOOLISHNESS*.

WE HAVE *REAL* WORK TO DO.

ALMOST GOT IT SHUT.

CAN YOU GET US THERE?

RIGHT TO THE BATTLESHIP'S *SOURCE* OF *POWER*, SAND. MY *MYSTIC SYMBOL* IS LATCHING ON TO THE *MAGE HORRIFYING*...

EVERYONE, HOLD ON--

-- DR. OCCULT IS GOING TO TAKE US TO THE CENTER OF THE PROBLEM--

-- SO STAY *ALERT*, PREPARE FOR *BATTLE*. WE'RE GOING *DEEP* INTO *ENEMY* TERRITORY.

GOOD JOB, OCCULT. NOW...

MY *GOD*... THE *POWER SOURCE*?

I *RECKON*.

I CAN HEAR PEOPLE *CRY*. FEEL THEIR *SPIRITS* WITHER.

THEY'RE *RUNNIN'* THIS DAMN BATTLESHIP--

--OFF A PLANET.

I'M GETTING SOME INCREDIBLY *ABNORMAL* READINGS HERE. WHATEVER IS ON THIS PLANET, IT'S GENERATING A MONSTROUS *ELECTROMAGNETIC* FIELD.

SO WHAT?

IT'S CALLED *DAXAM*.

HOW DO YOU--

I REMEMBER IT FROM AN ALIEN *INVASION* A FEW YEARS AGO. VALOR'S *HOME PLANET*.

DAXAMITES ARE *ALMOST* AS POWERFUL AS I AM. *FLIGHT. STRENGTH.* JUST FOR STARTERS... *FULL* OF ENERGY.

PEOPLE. THEY'RE *SUCKING* THE POWER FROM PEOPLE?

ALIENS?

WHATEVER. WE'RE NOT GOING TO *DISCONNECT* THIS "*BATTLESHIP*" WITHOUT *HELPING* THEM, ARE WE?

WITHOUT GIVING THEM THEIR *FREEDOM?*

NO, MR. MUNRO. *OF COURSE*, WE'RE NOT.

SKRAK

I... HAWKMAN, WHAT DO YOU--

GO AHEAD, SAND.

MAKE THE *CALL*.

SAVING LIVES COMES FIRST.

PATRIOT. TAKE IRON MUNRO, PHANTOM LADY, BLACK CONDOR, DAMAGE AND THE RAY DOWN TO DAXAM.

WIPE OUT ANY OF IMPERIEX'S FORCES.

FREE THOSE PEOPLE.

SENTINEL, GATHER THE MAGIC USERS. FIGURE OUT A WAY TO LEND YOUR POWER TO OCCULT.

ONCE PATRIOT'S CREW IS DONE, SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT...GETTING THAT PLANET BACK TO ITS PROPER ORBIT.

TERRIFIC AND I WILL TRACE THE POWER LINES TO THE MAIN CONTROL ROOM AND SEE ABOUT SHUTTING IT DOWN.

WE'LL TAKE A COVERT GROUP WITH US.

HAWKMAN, TAKE THE HEAVY HITTERS, CAUSE AS MUCH OF A DISTRACTION, AND AS MUCH DAMAGE, AS YOU CAN. KEEP IMPERIEX'S CREW OFF OUR BACK.

IF IMPERIEX'S POWER IS REMOTELY BEAMED TO HIM, MAYBE SOME OF HIS BATTLE PLANS ARE AS WELL.

IT GETS TOO HOT, CALL ME. I'LL HAVE OCCULT TELEPORT YOU OUTTA THERE.

I'M SURE WE CAN HANDLE IT.

GOOD LUCK, EVERYONE.

ACCORDING TO TERRIFIC, WE JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW ONE OF THESE "*FUEL*" LINES TO ITS BATTERY CELL. THEN *DISRUPT* THE CELL.

IT'LL CAUSE A *HELL OF* A DISTRACTION.

SO BASICALLY WE'RE GOING TO *BLOW UP* ITS *GAS TANK.*

YES.

AND WILDCAT USED TO TRY TO MAKE US DO FIFTY PUSH-UPS FOR EVERY PUNCH A VILLAIN LANDED ON US. NOT THAT SLY OR I EVER *LISTENED.*

NO *WAY.*

YEAH. WA--

AAAYYY--

KZZ.

OH, YOU ARE CUTE.

SMASH

KNIGHT, THE FUEL LINE LEADS RIGHT UP TO THAT WALL. MAKE A DOOR.

SKRAKK

COME, WINGED VICTORY.

'TIS TIME FOR BATTLE.

AYE, HAWKMAN.

SHRANK

FORSOOTH!

WHAT FOUL MAGIC IS AT WORK HERE?

THOOM

GET OUT OF THERE, KNIGHT. I'M GETTING HIGH LEVELS OF RADIO-ACTIVITY.

LOOKS LIKE THEIR FUEL CELLS ARE CENTERED AROUND DEAD SUNS. WHITE DWARF STARS.

THAT STUFF IS AS STABLE AS NITRO-GLYCERIN.

THEN LET'S SHAKE THINGS UP.

FWWW

SHH

MOVE!

KRAK OOOOM!!!

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

VICTORY, SAND.

THAT SHOULD PUT THE ATTENTION ON US.

IT SURE IS. GET READY FOR SOME COMPANY.

WE WELCOME IT.

PATRIOT--

--HOW'S OUR TEAM ON DAXAM?

US FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE JUST FINE.

WE'VE TRACED THE MAIN PIPE--

--FOUND WHAT APPEARS TO BE A TYPICAL SITE HERE. DAXAMITES ARE HOOKED UP TOGETHER IN SOME KINDA CONTAINMENT CELL. NOT HEAVILY GUARDED-- PROBABLY 'CAUSE THEY'RE NOT EXPECTIN' A BREAKOUT.

'COURSE THAT'S JUST DANDY WITH US.

SOME KIND OF HARVESTING DRONES, FLYIN' AROUND ELSEWHERE THOUGH...

[illegible]

[illegible]

SHRAK

ZZZZZ

THANKS FOR THE *KNIFE*, CONDOR.

LET'S HIT 'EM *HARD*, BOYS.

I RECKON WE GOT OFF *LUCKY*, FIGHTERS. NOT THAT MANY TO--

I "RECKON" NOT, PATRIOT. WE'VE GOT *INCOMING*.

BZZZ

BZZZ

BZZZ

BZZZ

BZZZ

BZZZ

ALL RIGHT, YOU *INSECTICONS*.

YOU WANT TO *RUMBLE*? LET'S *RUMBLE*.

BAABOOM

I LIKE THAT BOY'S SPUNK, MUNRO.

CHACHNG

KRKK

KAANG

YOU FIGHT WITHOUT GRACE. FOOLISH.

RELAX, CONDOR.

BRING IT ON, DROIDS! WHO WANTS SOME?!

SHRKAA

YOU?!

SHRKZZ

VRoΣ·113

WHA--?

AARGHHH!

AZAAK

SHR

RAY!?!

OH, NO.

I'VE EXPANDED MY CLOAKING FIELD. WITH HAWKMAN AND THE OTHERS ATTRACTING THE DRONES SHOULD BE OUT OF SIGHT FOR THE MOMENT.

SO WHAT KIND OF SALARY DOES THE JSA GOT YOU ON, 'CAT?

GOOD BENEFITS, I BET.

SHUT YOUR YAP.

THERE.

THROUGH THAT DOOR.

WHAT IS IT?

IN DESIGN, AT THE VERY BASIC LEVEL, THIS SHIP RESEMBLES A HUMAN BRAIN MORE THAN A TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE. IT SENDS OUT SIGNALS TO THE REST OF THE BODY-- IMPERIEX PRIME AND THE PROBES.

THERE'S A BILLION EXA-BYTES OF MEMORY SURGING THROUGH THE DATA CENTER. STICKS OUT LIKE J.J. THUNDER AT A JSA MEETING.

IF WE CAN GET IN THERE, CUT OFF COMMUNICATION AND--

TIME TO EARN MY KEEP. EXPLOSIVE SHELLS WILL DO THE JOB. STAND ASIDE.

BRRATT

VIGILANTE, HOLD ON A--

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, WILDCAT. *SHE* WHO HESITATES, LOSES.

LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE RIGHT, TERRIFIC. EACH ONE OF THESE... THINGS SEEMS TO BE CORRESPONDING TO A PROBE ON EARTH--

--IN THIS CASE... I THINK IT'S *AMSTERDAM.*

THIS IS WHERE THEY'RE GETTING THEIR INSTRUCTIONS.

INSTRUCTIONS TO *KILL.*

TIME TO CUT THE PUPPET'S *STRINGS.*

SHRK

HOW *FAST* CAN YOU TWO DISCONNECT THE REST OF THESE?

RAY! C'MON...

SKRRRR

BIROOOU!!

DUMB KID...

IS HE--?

THE *BLAST* REVERTED HIM BACK TO *HUMAN* FORM.

OH, GOD. I CAN'T GET A PULSE.

CONDOR! WHAT--

HAHBWEHDIYU WATCHES OVER US, PHANTOM LADY. JUST AS HE DOES IN OPAL CITY.

IT IS *NOT* TIME FOR YOUR FINAL JOURNEY TO BEGIN, RAY.

WE STILL NEED YOU.

MRR.

WHAT =KUFF= WHAT HAPPENED?

CONDOR SAVED YOUR LIFE.

...THANKS, MAN.

I HAVE NO DOUBT YOU WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME FOR ME.

STAND BACK, GUYS.

TIME TO EXTERMINATE THESE PARASITES.

THATTA BOY, DAMAGE!

KRAK OOM

LET ME HELP YOU, MA'AM.

WE'RE FINISHED ON DAXAM, SENTINEL. RAY'S HURT PRETTY BAD. AND THE DAXAMITES ARE NO DOUBT TOO WEAK TO HELP US OUT.

ROGER THAT, IRON MUNRO. OCCULT IS SENDING A PORT THAT WILL LEAD YOU BACK ABOARD THE STAR RACER. TAKE CARE OF RAY. WE'LL SEND THE DAXAMITES HOME.

I HEAR YOU, SENTINEL. WE'RE HEADING OFF PLANET.

THIS SUCKS. I'M STUCK HERE HOLDING HANDS.

YEAH. BLACK ADAM'S PALMS ARE SWEATY, YO!

CONCENTRATE, SIMPLETONS.

BUT--

TRY, HON. OKAY? THAT'S ALL WE'RE ASKING OF YOU.

...OKAY. I'LL TRY.

WHAT'S UP HIS HELMET?

SEE YOU IN A MINUTE.

WE NEED TO FOCUS OUR POWERS INTO THE MOST RIGOROUS BEING HERE. MY MYSTICAL SYMBOL CAN ONLY TELEPORT THE PLANET HOME BY DRAWING UPON THIS POOL OF ENERGY.

BLACK ADAM SHOULD BE TOUGH ENOUGH TO--

BLACK ADAM'S BODY WILL BE DESTROYED IF WE USE HIM AS THE CATALYST SUBJECT.

LIKE YOU, SENTINEL, JADE WAS ONCE A CONDUIT OF THE GREEN FLAME. WITH THAT POWER NOW GONE, HER BODY CAN HANDLE THE SPIRITUAL STRESS.

YOU'RE TELLING ME THIS IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR BLACK ADAM, BUT FINE FOR MY DAUGHTER? FORGET IT?

I CAN DO IT, DAD.

READY?

ALWAYS.

VRRZZZ

VRZZZ

VRZZZ

AAAHHH!

IT'S... IT'S WORKING.

DAXAM'S GONE HOME.

KSSSKKK

HNN.

HNN

JENNY?!

YEAH!

UH HUH, UH HUH, UH HUH.

WE... WE DID IT, DAD.

YOU DID IT.

RNKKK

THE SHIP IS COMING APART? WHAT IS HAPPENING?

I AM NOT SURE, ADAM.

WHOA!

WOOOSH

VZZZZ

AAA.

THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM.

SHHELT

FAIR PLAY

KOOO

OCCULT. FATE. YOU'VE GOT EXACTLY TEN SECONDS TO PORT EVERYONE OUT OF HERE.

EASIER SAID THAN DONE...OUR POWER'S ALREADY BEEN DRAINED SENDING DAXAM BACK. I DON'T KNOW IF--

FWASH

FWAASH

FWASH

FWAASH

THERE'S STILL SOMETHING IN ME. POWER... GIVE ME YOUR SYMBOL, DOC.

AND DAD?

LEND ME SOME WILLPOWER.

THAT'S THE LAST OF 'EM.

FWAASH

AL?

YEAH?

GET US THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

JSA

W-WE MADE IT?!?

TAKING US HOME, AL?

GOT TO ACCELERATE PAST THE ESCAPE VELOCITY. THRUSTERS ARE MAXED, JADE, SO HANG ON TO SOMETHING.

YOU DID WELL, KENDRA.

...SO DID YOU, CARTER.

EXCUSE ME.

ORACLE REPORTS ALL THE PROBES ARE FINISHED. WE JUST THREW A HELLUVA WRENCH IN IMPERIEX'S PLANS.

ALL RIGHT!

HMM...

GROSS! WHAT THE HECK IS THAT, PAT?

TOLD YOUR BROTHER I'D BRING HIM SOMETHING BACK FROM SPACE. THINK HE'LL LIKE IT?

KNOWING HIM. YES.

AND HE'S MY STEP-BROTHER..

MR. PRESIDENT...

DO YOU COPY?

I READ YOU, SAND.

MY GOD... IMPERIEX...

YOU MANAGED TO TAKE OUT THE ENTIRE SHIP?!

HOW MANY CASUALTIES DID YOUR TEAM SUFFER?

OUR SHIP TOOK SOME HITS. IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO TAKE US QUITE SOME TIME TO GET HOME.

BUT CASUALTIES, MR. PRESIDENT?

THE SWEET TASTE OF VICTORY, LAD!

THAT WAS SO SWEET!

NONE.

YOU'RE FORGETTING WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO.

THIS IS THE

JSA

FAIR
PLAY

JLA/JSA SECRET FILES
& ORIGINS #1 cover by

CARLOS PACHECO
& JESUS MERINO

BRRRIINGG!

FAWCETT CITY.

ONE MORE CLASS AND IT'S A *HOLIDAY* WEEKEND!

JUST GOTTA GRAB MY HISTORY BOOK.

YOU FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK, BILLY? THAT *STUPID* PAPER?

YEAH. *TEN* PAGES ON THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING! TOOK ME--

--FOREVER.

FAWCETT CI

Tige

OH, GREAT.

SEE? NOW, *THAT'S* SOMETHING I'D GIVE *THANKS* FOR.

RIGHT, BILLY?

BILLY?

WIZARD...? IT IS *YOU*, ISN'T IT?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SPEAK MY NAME, BILLY BATSON.

OKAY. BUT CAN WE MAKE THIS QUICK? I'M LATE FOR CLASS--

FAWCETT CITY

Tigers

THE SEVEN DEADLY

KRAKKOOM

--SHAZAM!

THE DAY BEFORE

JOHNS & GOYER - plot ○ JOHNS - script ○ SADOWSKI - pencils
PEPOY - inks ○ HATHAWAY - letters ○ McCRAW - colors
DIGITAL CHAMELEON - seps ○ RASPLER & COHEN - edits ○ WACKER - associate edits

MY PAPER!

THIS IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY TRIVIAL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS.

EASY FOR *YOU* TO SAY.

THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE HOMEWORK WHEN YOU WERE A KID. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO STUDY THINGS LIKE HISTORY, DID YOU?

STUDY HISTORY?

WE *MADE* HISTORY, BILLY BATSON.

YOU HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, AND PRESENTLY--

--YOU HAVE ACCEPTED MEMBERSHIP INTO THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

I TRUST THEY ARE ALL PREPARED.

WHY? WHAT'S GOING ON, WIZARD?

SOMETHING...

"...SINISTER."

I HOPE YOU DIDN'T TAKE MY PRECAUTIONS TOO PERSONALLY.

NOT AT ALL. I UNDERSTAND YOUR DISCRETION.

COME ON IN.

AMAZING.

AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, I'VE UPGRADED MANY OF MY COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS WITH YOUR CYBER-WARE DESIGNS. I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT MY INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL DATABASE.

I NEED TO OPEN SOME BACKDOORS INTO A FEW LESS THAN COOPERATIVE LAW AGENCIES.

YOU MUST BE *PROUD*. TAKING LEAD OF THE JSA.

VERY PROUD. THOUGH TRUTH BE TOLD, I STILL HAVE A HARD TIME GIVING ORDERS TO *HAWKMAN* AND *SENTINEL*.

I'M SURPRISED OUR TEAMS HAVEN'T *OFFICIALLY* MET YET.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN *SO IMPRESSIVE* BACK THEN. WHEN YOU FIRST MET THEM.

IT WAS... INTIMIDATING.

YOU? INTIMIDATED?

THE *REST* OF THE LEAGUE.

HAVING A TEAM LIKE THE JSA TO LOOK UP TO--TO *LIVE* UP TO. IT MADE EVERYONE TRY *THAT* MUCH HARDER.

TOGETHER, WE TACKLED CRISIS AFTER CRISIS. BATTLING THE SYNDICATE, RESCUING TIME-LOST HEROES, AND STOPPING MAD SORCERERS FROM THE FAR FUTURE...

AS *INSANE* AS THAT ALL SOUNDS--

REMNANTS OF PAST CASES? ISN'T THAT A BIT... SENTIMENTAL?

AND WILDCAT SAYS YOU'RE JUST A BIG BALL OF *ANGER*.

I *USED* TO BE.

MY GOD...

--THE *EARLY* DAYS WERE GOOD.

YOU MAY HAVE BROUGHT ME HERE TO TALK *TECH*, BATMAN--

--BUT THAT'S NOT THE REASON I *ACCEPTED* YOUR INVITATION.

THE WAY YOU CARRY YOURSELF, THE WAY YOU APPROACH SITUATIONS, I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* IT IS--

--BUT I *DO* KNOW THERE'S A LOT OF *SORROW* IN YOUR PAST.

...YOU KNOW ABOUT MY WIFE.

KILLED IN A CAR CRASH TWO YEARS AGO. I'M... SORRY.

LOSS HAS *CHANGED* ME--AND I'M GUESSING IT'S CHANGED YOU TOO.

NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN UNDERSTAND PERSONAL TRAGEDY--

--AND HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO *TALK* ABOUT. TO OPEN UP TO PEOPLE.

SO YOU THINK YOU'RE SOMEONE I CAN *TALK* TO? IS THAT IT?

ACTUALLY--

--I WAS HOPING I COULD TALK TO *YOU*.

IT'S JUST... I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START.

TRY THE BEGINNING, MICHAEL.

KEYSTONE CITY, KANSAS.

KILL HIM!

SIT DOWN, PLASTIC MAN! WE'RE HERE AS GUESTS AND YOU'RE MAKING A FOOL OF YOURSELF!

IT'S WHAT I DO BEST. NOW KEEP YOUR DIAPERS ON, GRANDPA, 'CUZ I'M JUS' GETTIN' WARMED UP!

SOMETHING WRONG, HOURMAN? YOU SEEM A BIT...RESTLESS. I THOUGHT YOU LIKED HOCKEY.

I DO. IT'S JUST--

JUST WHAT?

...NEVER MIND.

MAN, YOU SMELL THAT? WHERE'S THE FOOD-GUY?

I'M HUNGRIER THAN GORILLA GRODD IN A BANANA CHIP FACTORY.

HEY--

--DON'T MIND IF I DO.

HEY! LEGGO!

PLASTIC MAN!

Y'KNOW, MAYBE OUR TEAMS *SHOULDN'T* GET TOGETHER MORE OFTEN.

THAT *STINGS*, JAY! C'MON, CUT ME SOME *SLACK*!

I HELPED SAVE THE WORLD, LIKE, *FOUR* TIMES LAST WEEK!

SO YOU GET *GREEDY* AND TRY TO SWIPE SOMEONE *ELSE'S* FOOD?

I'M STARVING. AND I FORGOT MY WALLET. GOT NO POCKETS IN THIS ZOOT-SUIT!

WISH WE WERE AT A CHICAGO GAME.

USEDTA GET THESE *GREAT* DOGS FROM WRIGLEY FIELD. MY BEST FRIEND, WOOZY, AND I FOUND THIS HOLE IN THE FENCE...

HERE. DIRECT FROM CHICAGO.

FFZZSH

WITH EVERYTHING ON 'EM.

NOW *PLEASE* BEHAVE.

HEY, HOURMAN--

--WHATTSAMATTAYOU? CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?

I'M JUST BORED, OKAY?

I PERIODICALLY GET THESE PREMONITIONS. *FLASH FORWARDS* OF IMAGES *ONE HOUR* IN THE FUTURE.

KEYSTONE LOSES TO DETROIT. 3 TO 2.

WHAT?!

THANKS LOADS, NOSTRADAMUS!

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS--

--I HAVE NO CLEAR *PICTURE* OF WHAT THE FUTURE BRINGS.

NO OFFENSE, WIZARD, BUT THREATS ARE ALWAYS ON THE HORIZON.

I TELL THE JLA AND JSA TO "BE PREPARED" AND THEY SAY "WE ALREADY ARE."

ENVY

IGER LUST H UTTONY

I ALMOST EXCHANGED MY LIFE FOR CONTROL OVER THESE DEMONS. ONLY WITH THE HELP OF THE *GODS* THEMSELVES DID I MANAGE TO CAPTURE THEM.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE TIME I WAS *NOT* PREPARED. DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW I CAPTURED THESE BEINGS-- THE SEVEN DEADLY ENEMIES OF MAN?

ONLY ABOUT SIX OR SEVEN HUNDRED TIMES. BUT I'M A *GLUTTON* FOR PUNISHMENT.

NOW THEY ARE ENTOMBED HERE FOR *ETERNITY*--

"--FOREVER TRAPPED IN DARKNESS."

WHAT DO YOU SEE, ATOM?

NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY YET, DR. MID-NITE. ALL LEVELS READ NORMAL.

I'M GOING TO INTRODUCE THE HEMICELLULOSE SLIVER INTO THE PLURIPOTENT STEM CELL--

--SEE IF WE CAN GET A REACTION AT THIS LEVEL.

BWOOOSH

DAMN! TEMPERATURE JUST KICKED UP TO *THREE THOUSAND* FAHRENHEIT.

IT'S AS HOT AS A *SUN* IN HERE. I'VE GOT TO *ABORT*.

JSA HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK CITY.

HAD TO *DITCH* MY SUBATOMIC EXO-SUIT. THE GREEN FLAME DISINTEGRATED IT.

YOU ALL RIGHT, ALAN?

I'M FINE. JUST A SHARP PAIN...BUT IT'S GONE.

ATOM?

I'M GOING OUT ON A LIMB HERE. TAKING MY BEST GUESS, GREEN LANTERN... I MEAN *SENTINEL*. I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THAT.

YOU HAVEN'T JUST EMBODIED THE MAGICAL POWER OF THE *STARHEART*, YOUR BODY IS ACTUALLY *COMPOSED* OF THE *GREEN FLAME*.

THAT'S WHAT DR. MID-NITE SAYS.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO THINGS THAT CAN *AFFECT* THE FLAME. ONE IS *WOOD*. THE OTHER, YOUR *WILLPOWER*.

WITH THE WOOD, WE THINK IT COMES DOWN TO A REACTION WITH ANYTHING BOTANICAL. THE GREEN FLAME MORE THAN LIKELY CAUSES AN ABNORMAL PHOTOSYNTHETIC REACTION.

IT FEEDS THE CELLULOSE, WHICH IN TURN FEEDS THE GREEN FLAME.

LIKE THE FEEDBACK BETWEEN A SPEAKER AND A MICROPHONE, WOOD DISRUPTS THE LINK BETWEEN YOUR *WILLPOWER* AND THE *STARHEART*.

OTHERWISE, YOU WILL NOT AGE, YOU WILL NOT GET SICK...AS LONG AS YOU BELIEVE YOU WON'T.

YOU'RE BEYOND HUMAN NOW.

YOU'RE SAYING THAT ALAN'S *IMMORTAL*? THAT'S CRAZY, ATOM.

JEALOUS, LANTERN?

NO. BUT I THINK YOU'RE WRONG. ALAN MIGHT HAVE INTERNALIZED THE POWER OF THE *STARHEART*, BUT HE HASN'T...*BECOME* IT.

HE'S AS *HUMAN* AS YOU AND ME.

PIETER, WHAT DO YOU--?

IF THERE'S ANY OTHER EXPLANATION, ALAN, I DON'T HAVE IT.

AGREE WITH US OR NOT, SENTINEL, IT'S UP TO YOU--

--BUT IT'S NOT OFTEN I TELL SOMEONE--

"--THEY'RE PROBABLY THE MOST POWERFUL BEING ON THE PLANET."

KRAK

BIZARRO #1

THOOM

DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD HELP HIM?

NAW--

--SUPERMAN CAN HANDLE BIZARRO, KID.

MAKES ME FEEL KINDA USELESS. I MEAN, COMPARED TO YOU GUYS.

HE'S SO HOT, THOUGH.

DON'T YOU THINK SO, WONDER WOMAN?

FLY

HE'S A GOOD MAN, STAR.

PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT YOU AND HIM. WONDER WOMAN AND SUPERMAN.

LIKE YOU BELONG TOGETHER.

YEAH. AND THEIR COSTUMES MATCH.

ACTUALLY, YOURS KINDA MATCHES, TOO, POWER GIRL. WOULD YOU EVER--

NO THANKS, KID. TOO WEIRD.

SUPERMAN HELPED CONVINCE THE JSA TO TRAIN ME WHEN I FIRST WOKE UP ON EARTH...ARRIVED HERE.

ANYWAY, IT'D BE LIKE *KISSING* A COUSIN.

WELL, WONDER WOMAN? WOULD YOU EVER--?

BECOME ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH KAL?

I AM THE AMBASSADOR OF PEACE FOR THEMYSCIRA. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ROMANCE.

WHOA.

LIKE *THAT'S* NOT DODGING THE QUESTION.

OKAY, THEN WHO WOULD YOU GO AFTER, POWER GIRL?

WILDCAT?

GOD, NO.

I WOULDN'T GO AFTER ANYONE, OKAY? I'M NOT THIS LUST-CRAZED WOMAN EVERYONE THINKS I AM.

ROLLING STONE DID VOTE YOU AS SEXIEST HERO OF LAST YEAR.

YOU READ ROLLING STONE?

I LIKE AMERICAN MUSIC.

LOOK, I'M NOT SAYING I DON'T THINK SUPERMAN'S ATTRACTIVE.

HE'S ONE OF THE MOST HANDSOME, SMART AND, YES, SEXY MEN I'VE EVER--

--

HE'S BEHIND ME, ISN'T HE?

YES, HE IS.

HA AND HA.

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

DOCTOR FATE'S TOWER.

HHF.

DO NOT BE *LAZY*, HECTOR HALL. YOU STILL HAVE *MUCH* TO *READ*.

I'VE BEEN DIGGING THROUGH THIS LIBRARY FOR *MONTHS*. I'VE BARELY MADE A *DENT*.

YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO *PROTECT* EARTH FROM THE FORCES OF *CHAOS*.

CAN YOU NOT HANDLE THIS RESPONSIBILITY?

WE'LL DISCUSS THIS *LATER*, NABU. RIGHT NOW--

--WE STILL HAVE *COMPANY*.

I FOUND IT.

MY DAD'S BIOGRAPHY. ONE OF THE ONLY COPIES IN EXISTENCE.

THANKS FOR LETTING ME "CHECK IT OUT."

KOOB PMUJ NI TAH!

ZATARA WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST MAGICIANS OF OUR TIME, ZATANNA. BOTH ON AND OFF THE STAGE.

HE TAUGHT ME A LOT OF NEAT TRICKS. 'COURSE THE TRICK HERE IS...

...WHICH DOOR LEADS OUT?

BACK TO SAN FRANCISCO? OR THE JLA WATCHTOWER? OR PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO VISIT FAIRY LAND OR PARIS?

ACTUALLY, I'VE GOT A SHOW TONIGHT IN MANHATTAN.

UP THERE. FIFTH AND 23RD--

--STRANGE.

I JUST FELT--

A COLD SHIVER SHOOTING UP YOUR SPINE? ME TOO.

WHAT WAS THAT?

WIZARD! ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT IS IT?

I DO NOT KNOW. PERHAPS... IT WAS NOTHING.

MAYBE SO, BUT I'LL GET THE JLA AND JSA TOGETHER--

--JUST IN CASE.

AND DON'T WORRY, WIZARD. I'M SURE IT'S NOTHING WE CAN'T HANDLE.

THE QUESTION NOW IS...HAS THE TREMOR IN MY SOUL DISAPPEARED--

--OR IS IT SIMPLY BEING COVERED UP?

THE SENTINEL

KREEK

KREEK

KREEK

KREEK

KREEK

KREEK

WHAT?

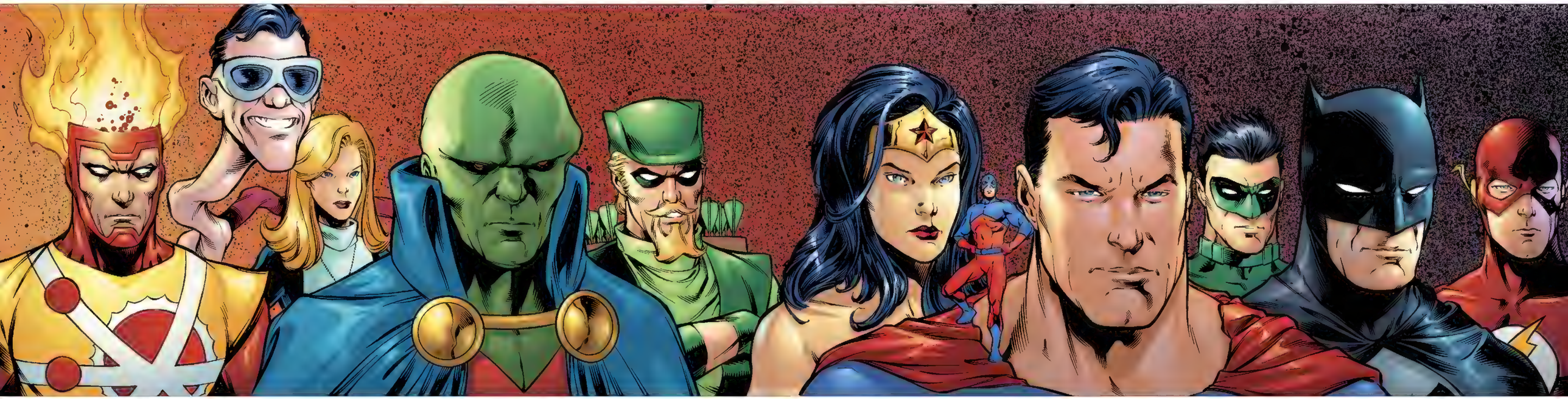
IT'S TOO LATE, WIZARD.

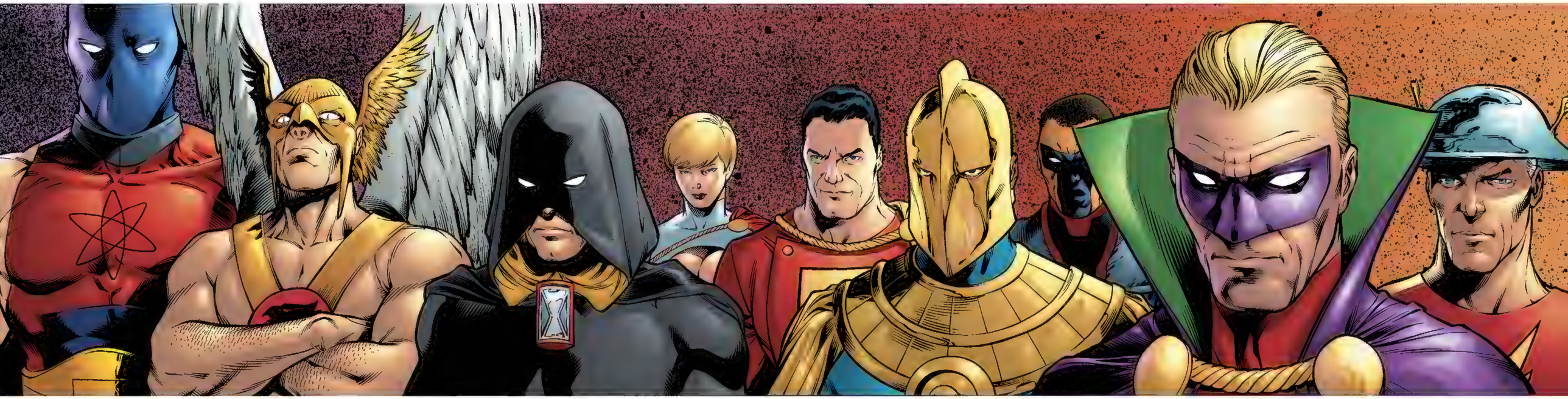
YOUR CHAMPION WILL BE OURS.

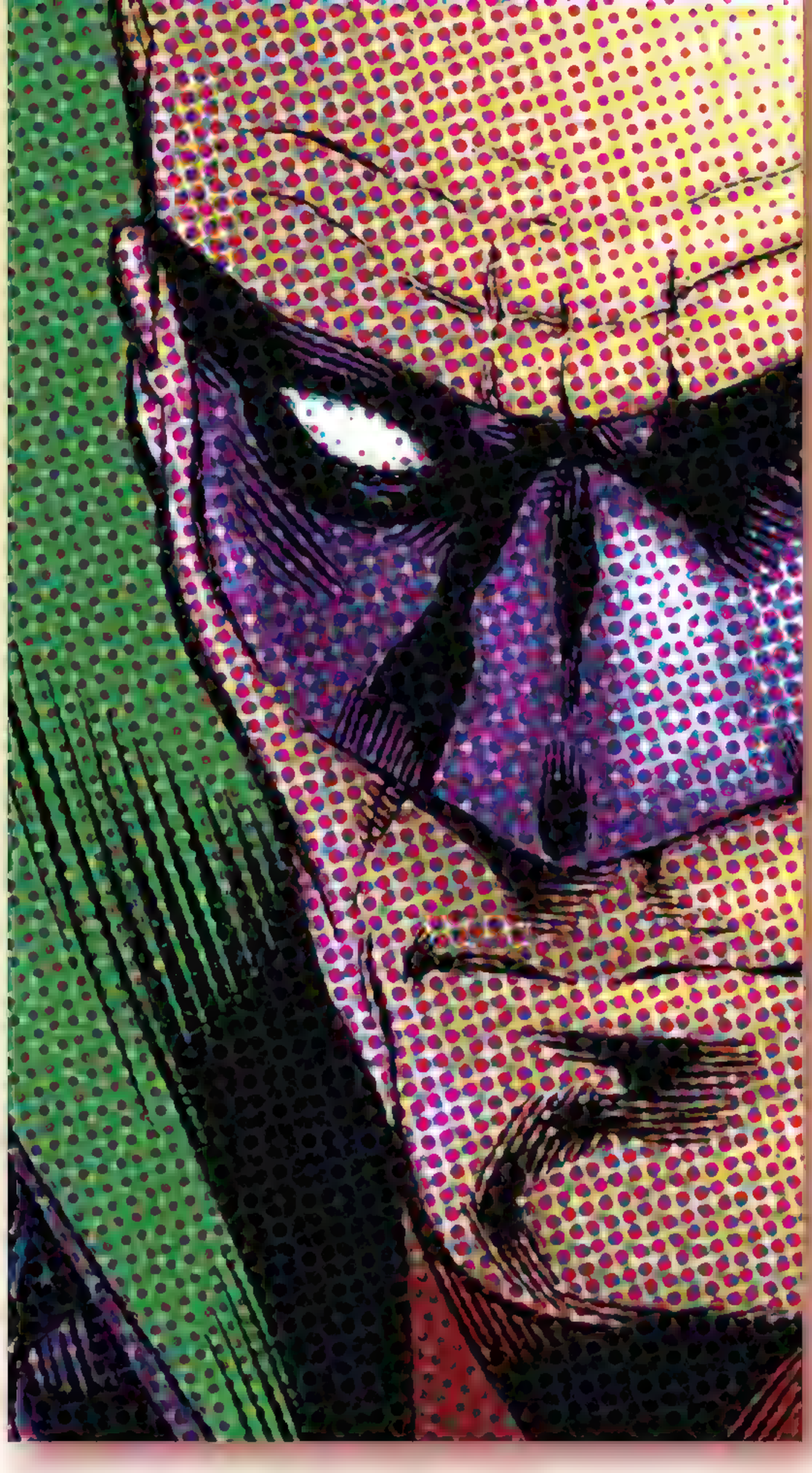
AS WILL THE WORLD.

THE WIZARD'S FATE -- AND THE WORLD'S-- IS REVEALED IN

JLA/JSA: VIRTUE & VICE!







JLA/JSA: VIRTUE AND VICE cover by

CARLOS PACHECO & JESUS MERINO

PUTS THINGS INTO *PERSPECTIVE* DOESN'T IT?

DO YOU EVER GET TIRED OF THE *VIEW?*

NO.

I WISH THE *OTHERS* COULD *SEE* IT, THOUGH.

WHO?

EVERYONE DOWN *THERE.*

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU HERE AGAIN, SENTINEL. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.

THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO HIS.

YOU PEOPLE WERE THE FIRST. THE MODEL THE REST OF US FOLLOW.

BELIEVE ME, I'M JUST HAPPY SOMEONE DID FOLLOW.

CAPTAIN MARVEL HAD A TERRIFIC IDEA. SETTING UP THIS NEW ANNUAL TRADITION.

THANKSGIVING AT THE JLA WATCHTOWER THIS YEAR, AND NEXT YEAR--

"--WE'LL DO IT AT OUR PLACE."

I AM SO FRICKIN' LATE!

WHERE THE HELL DID I PUT MY COSMIC ROD?

IT'S IN YOUR HAND, STAR.

OH... RIGHT.

YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT COMIN', HAWKGIRL?

AND LISTEN TO ANOTHER OF MR. TERRIFIC'S LECTURES AGAIN? NO THANKS.

IT'S THANKSGIVING, KENDRA.

LET HAWKMAN HANDLE THE SOCIAL CALLS.

THE NEW TELEPORTATION SYSTEM IS UP AND RUNNING. THANKS TO THE JLA AND OUR THANAGARIAN TECH. SO--

--YOU READY TO BE DISASSEMBLED INTO A BAZILLION ELECTRONS AND TRANSPORTED TO THE MOON?

HOW'S MY HAIR?

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES.

BIOMETRIC SIGNATURE MATCH. SUBJECT: STAR-SPANGLED KID.

TRANSPORT. JLA WATCHTOWER.

VOICE PRINT MATCH. SUBJECT: HAWKGIRL.

FWASHT

WHOA! THAT WAS REALLY WEIR--

COOL, HUH?

NO WAY.

AA!

WALLY! YOU MORON! I ALMOST FRIED THAT STUPID GRIN RIGHT OFF YOUR FACE!

NAW. WOULDA DODGED IT.

WHAT'S GOT YOU SO NERVOUS, STAR?

YOU MEAN BESIDES WALKING AROUND THE JLA WATCHTOWER?

I MEAN IT'S THE JUSTICE LEAGUE! IT DOESN'T GET ANY BIGGER THAN THIS.

FUNNY.

WHAT?

THAT'S WHAT GREEN LANTERN AND I WERE SAYING ABOUT THE JSA.

JLA

SUPERMAN

BATMAN

WONDER WOMAN

MARTIAN MANHUNTER

GREEN LANTERN

THE FLASH

PLASTIC MAN

THE ATOM

FIRESTORM

CAPTAIN ATOM

GREEN ARROW

ZATANNA

VIXEN

COME ON IN.

JSA

MR. TERRIFIC

SENTINEL

POWER GIRL

SAND

JAY GARRICK

DR. FATE

CAPTAIN MARVEL

THE STAR-SPANGLED KID

HAWKMAN

HAWKGIRL

DR. MID-NITE

HOURMAN

ATOM MASTER

BLACK ADAM

WILDCAT

BLACK CANARY

HEY, CHECK ME OUT. I'M GONNA BEAT A *FORMER HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION!*

IN YER *DREAMS*, GREEN LATRINE.

YOU'RE *LAUGHIN'* UNDER THAT *HELMET*, AIN'TCHA?

NO.

--*FIFTH* TIME HE CALLED HAWKMAN A *FEATHERED FASCIST*. I THOUGHT HE WAS GONNA SHOVE ONE OF THOSE *ARROWS* RIGHT UP HIS--

HUNGRY, BATMAN?

I'D *PREFER* KEEPING *SOCIAL* ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THESE *SEPARATE* FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS ON *SECURITY* AND *TEAM COORDINATION.*

AS *CHAIRMAN* OF THE JSA, I UNDERSTAND *TIME MANAGEMENT*, BATMAN--

--BUT *EVERYONE* HAS TO EAT.

WE SHOULD HEAD BACK *IN*. WILDCAT'S LIABLE TO *LAP* UP ALL THE *CRANBERRY SAUCE* BY HIMSELF.

HOLD ON, I'M PICKING SOMETHING UP WITH MY *TELESCOPIC VISION*--

THERE. THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. *TANZANIA*, I THINK.

KAL, WE'RE GETTING REPORTS OF A *DISTURBANCE* IN ARUSHA--

ALREADY *ON* IT, J'ONN.

ONWARD, MY ANIMATES! FOR THE GLORY OF APOKOLIPS!!!

DAMMIT, LUTHOR! I TOLD YOU TO GET BACK!

THAT'S MR. PRESIDENT TO YOU, VIXEN.

--HERE IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA AT THE PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON WORLD HUNGER-- =KZZZ=

-- UNDER ATTACK BY SOMEONE CALLING HIMSELF DOCTOR BEDLAM--

--CLAIMING TO REPRESENT THE ROGUE PLANET APOKOLIPS-- =KZZZ=

--ATTACK OCCURRED JUST AS THE PRESIDENT AND FORMER JUSTICE LEAGUE MEMBER VIXEN WERE BEGINNING THEIR KEYNOTE ADDRESS--

GET BEHIND ME THEN, "MR." PRESIDENT.

THIS IS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD?

KRAK

BAH! YOU ARE NOTHING, LITTLE MAN.

ACKKGGG.

DO US A FAVOR, BEDLAM--

--DON'T LET THE DOOR HIT YOU ON YOUR WAY OUT.

KRAAA

MESSAGE TO DOCTOR BED PAN--

--YOU PICKED THE WRONGGG PLANET TO POOP ON.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?

KKSHSH

DOCTOR BEDLAM IS SIMPLY CONCENTRATED PSYCHIC FORCE, CAPTAIN MARVEL. THAT ANIMATE WAS NOTHING BUT A HOLLOW SHELL.

I CAN ALREADY SENSE HIS MIND LEAVING THIS PLANE.

SPREAD OUT, PEOPLE. THE GROUNDS BENEATH THE CONFERENCE CENTER ARE RIDDLED WITH FRESHLY BURROWED TUNNELS.

MY TELEPATHY SHOULD...

MY TELEPATHY...

WE'LL HANDLE THIS, MANHUNTER.

IT NEVER ÷NNPH÷ CEASES TO AMAZE ME--

HOW THESE COSMIC CRACKPOTS KEEP COMING OUT OF THE WOODWORK.

KRAK

IT'S THE NATURE OF THE BEAST, TERRIFIC--

THWMM

KEEP IT UP, MARVEL. WE'VE GOT 'EM ON THE RUN NOW.

STRANGE. I WOULD'VE EXPECTED MORE RESISTANCE FROM AN ASSAULT LIKE THIS--

SKRUNCHHH

HELP ME! HELP ME! I GOTS A PARTY IN MY PANTS!

HONESTLY, PLAS, DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF PLAYING THE JACKASS?

LISTEN, MY LITTLE CANTILEVERED POWER-PEACH--

--DIDN'T YOUR MOTHER EVER TELL YOU A LITTLE GARDEN-VARIETY TOMFOOLERY WAS CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE--

KONK

HEY, THAT'S KINDA WEIRD...

WHO ARE THOSE GUYS?

THAT THE *LAST* OF THEM?

SO IT WOULD SEEM.

MR. PRESIDENT, VIXEN-- ARE THE TWO OF YOU *ALL RIGHT?*

WE'RE *FINE*, SUPERMAN. THANKS TO YOU AND THE *OTHERS*.

INDEED. IT APPEARS OUR *NATION* OWES YOU A DEBT OF *GRATITUDE* ONCE AGAIN.

PRESIDENT LUTHOR--

JANET CRAWFORD, GOTHAM CITY BROADCASTING--

CAN WE GET A LITTLE *FOOTAGE* OF YOU AND SUPERMAN *TOGETHER?*

IT WOULD BE MY *PLEASURE*, JANET--

TODAY'S TIMELY *INTERVENTION* OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND JUSTICE SOCIETY HAS SERVED AS ANOTHER POTENT *REMINDER*--

"--OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT AMERICA'S HEROES PLAY IN SAFEGUARDING OUR WORLD."

THIS ATTACK DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

I WOULDN'T PUT MUCH FAITH IN WHAT OUR PRESIDENT SAYS.

LUTHOR'S BEEN BRAGGING ABOUT HIS NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH APOKOLIPS FOR MONTHS.

BUT HAWKMAN'S RIGHT. WHY MAKE WAVES NOW?

ESPECIALLY WITH A LUNKHEAD LIKE BEDLAM? I MEAN, COME ON, WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

THERE WAS DEFINITELY MORE TO IT. DURING THE BATTLE I FELT... SOMETHING ELSE.

MY TELEPATHY IS ALWAYS ACTIVE. THOUGHTS OF THOSE AROUND ME FLOWING THROUGH MY HEAD. LIKE A CONSTANT STATIC.

I USUALLY TUNE THEM OUT--

--BUT IN AFRICA, SOMETHING WAS BLINDING ME, BLURRING MY ABILITY TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS.

THE ORIGINAL ATOM. THEY MAKE YOU YOUNGER MEMBERS STUDY ALL THIS, RIGHT? HE WAS A TOUGH LITTLE GUY.

YOU HEAR THAT, JAKEEM? NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED FOR BEIN' SHORT.

HF.

YEAH, STAR. THANKS A LOT, ATOM.

THESE OLDER COSTUMES WERE PRETTY LAME IF YOU ASK ME.

I MEAN, LOOK AT THE ORIGINAL MR. TERRIFIC HERE--I WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT DEAD WEARING THAT.

'LEAST HE'S NOT WEARIN' NO DOG COLLAR.

HEH.

LET'S TABLE DR. BEDLAM FOR NOW. I'D RATHER FOCUS ON THE MATTER AT HAND.

AGREED, THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WAS TO FOSTER A CLOSER WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO TEAMS.

WELL...THE WISEST THING TO DO IS CONCENTRATE ON THE ELEMENTS THAT MAKE UP A GOOD PARTNERSHIP.

COMMUNICATION. TRUST.

GIVEN THE CONSTANT INFLUX OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND PERSONAL DATA FLOWING BETWEEN OUR TEAMS, I THINK SECURITY SHOULD BE A MAIN PRIORITY.

YOU'RE RIGHT... SECURITY...

YOUR WORK HERE HAS HARDLY LIVED UP TO YOUR NAME, "TERRIFIC."

EXCUSE ME?

ULTRA HUMANITE

THIS HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN ASSAULTED SUCCESSFULLY SEVERAL TIMES. THE INJUSTICE SOCIETY, ROULETTE, THE ULTRA-HUMANITE.

IN ADDITION, YOUR INEPTITUDE HELPED SPAWN THE NEW THINKER. THAT COMPUTER VIRUS NEARLY DESTROYED KEYSTONE CITY.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, BATMAN, THE JLA WATCHTOWER'S BEEN COMPROMISED MORE TIMES THAN I'D CARE TO ENUMERATE.

AND CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG--

--BUT WASN'T IT YOUR OWN PARANOID CONTINGENCY PLANS THAT RECENTLY JEOPARDIZED YOUR TEAMMATES DURING THE WHOLE RA'S AL GHUL FIASCO?

WHAT IN HERA'S NAME HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU TWO? THERE ARE NO ENEMIES HERE.

WONDER WOMAN'S RIGHT. BACK OFF. BOTH OF--

KRAKK

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND, TERRIFIC?!

NAH--

--JUST OUR PATIENCE!

SMASH

THAT'S ENOUGH, KYLE!

STAND DOWN NOW, OR SO HELP ME--

--YOU'LL DO WHAT? BORE ME TO DEATH WITH STORIES ABOUT THE OLD DAYS?

YOU HAD YOUR DAY IN THE SUN, SENTINEL.

I'M GREEN LANTERN NOW!

I AM!

FINAL ORDER

KRR-RR-RR-R

--NNNARRRLLLLHHH!!!

J'ONN!

OH, KAL.

POWER GIRL, WHAT--?

SAY "AH."

YUM.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--?

ROCKING YOUR WORLD, SUPERMAN.

THWAMM

THIS ISN'T YOU, MARVEL. I SENSE ANOTHER'S INFLUENCE HERE.

BLACK ADAM.

JUST LOOKING AT YOU MAKES ME HUNGRY.

MORE OF THE GODS' LIGHTNING FOR ME--

KRAKOOM

AAAHHHRRR!

--AND A WEAK HUMAN FORM FOR YOU.

KZZT

HATE TO HAVE TO DO THIS --

-- THEN SHUT UP AND DON'T!!!

BAMM

YOU KNOW, I MAY HAVE *TAUGHT* YA A LOT OF THINGS, KIDDO.

BUT FIGHTING *DIRTY*--

--I KEPT *THOSE* MOVES TO *MYSELF*.

YOU DON'T KNOW A *THING* ABOUT *FIGHTING DIRTY*, GRANT.

KRAK

USE YOUR *WILLPOWER*, SON. *FIGHT* IT-- WHATEVER IT IS.

DON'T *PATRONIZE* ME, SENTINEL. I'M THE *LAST* ONE LEFT. THE *LAST* GREEN LANTERN.

IT'S *YOU* THAT SHOULD BE TAKING *POINTERS* FROM *ME*.

EH--? TERRIFIC?

SINCE YOUR *POWERS* HAVE A NATURAL *WEAKNESS* TO ANYTHING *WOODEN*, I WAS CURIOUS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN--

--IF YOU INHALED A CLOUD OF CELLULOSE PARTICLES!

FASHHH

NMMMPHH

SENTINEL!

CHOOM

CHOOM

CHOOM

THE WHOLE HEADQUARTERS IS COMING DOWN!

NEVER *MIND* THAT, WE NEED TO *EVACUATE* THE--

HEY!

ACK?!

CHECK IT OUT, SPEEDY'S HAT!

KNOW HOW MUCH I CAN GET ON EBAY FOR THIS THING?

CHA-CHING!

TAKE CARE OF THEM, FATE. FINISH THEM OFF.

WHY MAKE THE EFFORT?

BECAUSE I'M ASKING, FATE.

IF I MUST, BUT I HAVE TO TELL YOU, I'M FINDING ALL OF THIS--

-- FAR TOO TEDIOUS!

FRRZZZ

YEAH. WE JUST GOT DUMPED INTO DR. FATE'S TOWER.

NOT GOOD. I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.

--WHERE?

TAKE THEM TO THE WATCHTOWER, ATOM!

--CALL THE RESERVES--

--I'LL HEAD BACK--

--FOR THE OTHERS!

TRANSPORT. JLA WATCHTOWER.

BIOMETRIC SIGNATURE AND VOICE-PRINT MATCH.

COMMENCING JAUNT.

VVVVVVVM

VVVVVVV

"-- IF WE REDIRECTED THE PROCESS MID-FLIGHT?"

WHAT IS THAT THING?!

OH, NO, NOT AGAIN...

A FREAKIN' FIRE GIANT.

THOSE TRAITORS JUST BOOTED US BACK TO LIMBO!

KRRKOOOM

GET BACK! GET--

A PHILOSOPHER ONCE SAID--

--"THERE ARE ONLY *TWO* KINDS OF MEN: THE RIGHTEOUS WHO THINK THEY ARE *SINNERS* AND THE *SINNERS* WHO THINK THEY ARE RIGHTEOUS."

WELL... UH... WHICH ONES ARE WE, BATS?

TAKE YOUR PICK.

GOTHAM CITY.

HORNE JR

LAST WOMAN YOU'RE GOING TO BE TERRORIZING FOR A GOOD LONG WHILE, FRIEND.

VOTE

THORNE JR

WHAM

PRISON'S TOO GOOD FOR THAT SCUM!

HEY--

THUNK

WE'RE ANGRY AND WE'RE TAKING OUR CITY BACK.

VOTE

COUNCILMAN THORNE JR.

versus

THORNE

DAMNED JUSTICE IS A JOKE.

A REVOLVING DOOR--

--THAT SHUTS TONIGHT.

FAWCETT CITY.

TEN HUT, MY LITTLE SCROOGELINGS, KEEP THEM GREENBACKS A-COMIN'!

HAVE YOU GONE INSANE, PLASTIC MAN?

THAT'S IT, YA GREEDY-GUTS --

--TIME TA CRACK INTA THAT OL' COMMUNITY CHEST!

THAT'S LIKE CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK, MARY.

EVERYONE KNOWS THE LEAGUE'S MASCOT IS A NUTJOB.

THERE YOU ARE.

MY FAMILY. WE ALL SHARE POWER FROM THE SAME SOURCE.

CAREFUL, KID. DON'T WANNA BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW.

BUT I'M TIRED OF SHARING.

KRAKOOM

YOU KIDDING, PLAS? THEY WERE JUST THE APPETIZER.

JLA WATCHTOWER INFIRMARY:

PROGRESS REPORT. THIS IS DR. MID-NITE, ATTENDING PHYSICIAN.

HAWKGIRL, JAKEEM THUNDER AND ATOM SMASHER CONTINUE TO *IMPROVE.*

IN THE WAKE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL'S *ATTACK*, BLACK ADAM HAS *REVERTED* TO THEO ADAM, THE HUMAN *HOST* HE SHARES A SYMBIOTIC *RELATIONSHIP* WITH.

FOR THE *MOMENT*, HE'S BEEN STABILIZED.

IT'S THE *MARTIAN MANHUNTER* THAT I'M MOST *WORRIED* ABOUT.

DUE TO *SEVERE* THIRD DEGREE BURNS HIS *XENOMORPHIC SYSTEM* HAS GONE INTO *SHOCK* AND SUBSEQUENTLY LOST ALL *PHYSICAL INTEGRITY.*

--WARN YOU-- HKKKKK-- DOCTOR--

EASY, J'ONN. DON'T TRY TO *SPEAK*--

--TELEPATHY, THEN--

--FADING, HAVE TO BE QUICK--

--WATCH LUTHOR--

AAARRR!

MANHUNTER! I...I WISH I KNEW HOW TO TAKE THE PAIN AWAY BUT--

WHAT--?

UOY LLIW WON PEELS, RETNUHNAM.

--NNNNNNN

JUST A SIMPLE SLEEP-HEX COURTESY OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S RESIDENT SPELL-WEAVER.

MY NAME IS ZATANNA. J'ONN CALLED FOR ME.

AS WELL AS FIRESTORM, GREEN ARROW AND BLACK CANARY.

DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED, MID-NITE. SINCE MY DAYS AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE JLA I'VE STILL HELD RESERVE STATUS. JUST LIKE I DO IN THE JSA.

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF CALLING SAND AND HOURMAN WHEN I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JSA HEADQUARTERS.

GREEN ARROW. I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU.

LIKEWISE, DOC. BUT AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO STAND HERE TALKING SHOP--

MOSCOW

"--I THINK WE'VE GOT A WORLD THAT NEEDS SAVING."

ANGKOR WAT

FROM WHAT I KNOW, NINE OF OUR TEAMMATES ARE MISSING.

AND ACCORDING TO J'ONN, SEVEN APPEAR TO HAVE GONE INSANE.

HONG KONG

AND THE REST OF THE WORLD'S HEROES ARE SUDDENLY UP TO THEIR EARS DEALING WITH SOME KIND OF WIDESPREAD PSYCHOTIC OUTBREAK.

SOMEONE'S HIT US. AND HIT US HARD.

LET'S BACK UP. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT BEDLAM? MR. MIRACLE TUSSLED WITH HIM A FEW TIMES.

ACCORDING TO D.E.O. INTELLIGENCE, DOCTOR BEDLAM IS AN ASTRAL BEING FROM THE WAR PLANET OF APOKOLIPS. BEDLAM PROJECTS HIS THOUGHTS INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S BODIES--USES THEM LIKE PUPPETS.

ATTACKING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DOESN'T REALLY FIT HIS M.O. HE'S USUALLY MORE LOW-KEY. LIKES TO STAY OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT.

WELL, UM, WHAT IF SOMEONE ELSE WERE USING BEDLAM?

MAYBE. SAY THE GOAL WAS SIMPLY TO GET IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO LUTHOR?

J'ONN DID TELL ME TO WATCH LUTHOR--

TO WHAT END? WISH I CONTROLLED MY PROPHETIC TIME-VISIONS. SEE WHAT'S IN STORE FOR LUTHOR AND THE REST OF US.

WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?

WHA'? OH. SORRY, MAN. I JUST... I CAN SEE MOLECULAR STRUCTURES AND... YOU'RE A SILICON-BASED LIFEFORM.

A SAND-MAN, YES. I'M AWARE OF THAT.

SILICON.

FOURTEENTH ELEMENT IN THE PERIODIC TABLE. ATOMIC WEIGHT TWENTY-EIGHT POINT ZERO. EIGHT. FIVE. FIVE... INTERESTING.

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!

IT'S CALLED THE ROCK OF ETERNITY.

ROCK OF WHAT?

I'LL EXPLAIN WHEN WE GET THERE. BUT IF ITS APPEARANCE MEANS WHAT I THINK IT DOES, OUR SITUATION JUST TOOK A DEFINITE TURN FOR THE WORSE.

CAPTAIN ATOM, THIS IS BLACK CANARY CALLING FROM THE JLA WATCHTOWER. PER OUR CHARTER WE'RE PUTTING ALL RESERVE MEMBERS BACK ON ACTIVE STATUS.

ROGER THAT, CANARY.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SITUATION?

NOT MUCH. ACCORDING TO NORAD THIS THING MATERIALIZED OVER MT. RUSHMORE SOME TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES AGO. I SUITED UP WITH MY FELLOW SOLDIERS AND FLEW OVER--

HOLD ON, I SEE SOMEONE DOWN THERE--

BE CAREFUL, CAPTAIN. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE--

WHO ARE YOU? ARE YOU HURT?

THANK GOD YOU'VE COME. I'VE BEEN EVER SO LONELY.

CAN YOU STEP INTO THE LIGHT? I CAN'T SEE YOU--

IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE, SIR.

MY GOD--

WHAT'S WRONG, CAPTAIN?

NYYYAARRRRRRRRRHHHHH!!!!

HAVING DIFFICULTY TOLERATING THE STRESS OF MY REGARD?

ONE DOWN.

SIX BILLION TO GO.

I WANT TO *URGE* EVERYONE TO REMAIN *CALM.*

THE *FACTS* AS WE KNOW THEM ARE THIS--

AS OF THIS *MOMENT,* OUR NATION APPEARS TO BE UNDER *ATTACK.*

AND WHILE THE *IDENTITY* OF OUR *ENEMIES* REMAINS A *MYSTERY,* THE NOVEL MEANS BY WHICH THEY HAVE CHOSEN TO *ASSAULT* US ARE NOT.

MANY OF OUR CITIZENS HAVE *SUCCUMBED* TO WHAT I CAN ONLY CHARACTERIZE AS A KIND OF *'TELEPATHIC VIRUS!*

A NUMBER OF SO-CALLED *META-HUMANS* HAVE ALSO SUCCUMBED, INCLUDING, THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* AND *JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA.*

AT PRESENT, WE UNDERSTAND VERY *LITTLE* ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE VIRUS'S *PATHOLOGY.*

REST ASSURED, THOUGH, THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT IS DOING EVERYTHING IN ITS CAPACITY TO BRING THIS CRISIS TO A CLOSE.

IN THE MEANTIME, BY POWER OF EXECUTIVE ORDER, I HAVE DECIDED TO DECLARE A NATIONWIDE STATE OF *MARTIAL LAW.*

WHILE I REALIZE THESE MEASURES MAY COME AS A SHOCK TO MANY OF YOU, PLEASE KNOW THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ENACTED TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC AS A WHOLE.

THERE IT IS, THEN. THE LINES HAVE BEEN DRAWN.

YOU CALLED IT, PRETTY BIRD.

ZATANNA, THE ROCK OF ETERNITY IS CAPTAIN MARVEL'S STOMPING GROUND, ISN'T IT?

IT'S A MYSTICAL STRONGHOLD. HOME TO THE ANCIENT WIZARD SHAZAM-- THE SOURCE OF MARVEL'S AND BLACK ADAM'S POWER. IT USUALLY ISN'T ACCESSIBLE FROM THIS PLANE OF REALITY.

AND MARVEL WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO FALL.

NO OFFENSE, ZEE, BUT THE ROCK OF ETERNITY SOUNDS MORE LIKE YOUR CUP OF TEA.

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE SAND, HOURMAN AND FIRESTORM AND SEE IF YOU CAN'T GAIN ENTRY TO THE DAMN THING?

DONE.

GREAT. THEY GET THE AIRY-FAIRY DUTY. SO WHAT ARE ME AND DOC SUPPOSED TO DO?

WELL, YOU COULD STAND THERE AND LOOK PRETTY--

-- OR YOU COULD JOIN ME ON A LITTLE TOUR OF THE OVAL OFFICE.

Y'KNOW.

I KINDA HATE THIS PLACE.

DR. FATE'S TOWER IS A *NEXUS* FOR ALL *REALITIES*. A *CROSSROADS* THAT EXISTS IN EVERY DIMENSION AND ON EVERY PLANE OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

NO CENTER OF *GRAVITY*. THAT *CHILL* IN THE AIR. AND THE *MUSTY STENCH*--

IT'S AS IF *MOUNT OLYMPUS* HAD BEEN *SWALLOWED UP* BY *HADES* ITSELF.

I FEEL *STRANGE*... LISTLESS.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE. THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG ABOUT THIS PLACE. IT WAS *DIFFERENT* THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE.

WE NEED TO GET BACK. SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS.

DON'T KNOW WHY DOC FATE WENT *SCHIZO*, BUT HE'S THE ONLY ONE WITH A *MAP* TO THIS FUNHOUSE.

FINDING THE *EXIT* IS GOING TO BE NEXT TO--

SUPERMAN!?

KRRKKT

UNNN!

SUDDENLY FEEL... *WEAK.*

LIKE I... HAVEN'T EATEN FOR *DAYS.*

GHOOMFF

IT'S THOSE DAMN **ZOMBIES,** SENTINEL. THE SONS OF ANNUBIS. WE--

OH, MY GOD!

YOU'RE **BLEEDING!**

I NEED... **SUNLIGHT...**

BUT SUPERMAN WAS JUST IN FULL VIEW OF THE **SUN.** HIS **CELLS** CAN STORE **SOLAR ENERGY** FOR **DAYS** BEFORE--

TIME DOESN'T **FLOW** FROM LEFT TO RIGHT HERE, WONDER WOMAN.

A **POWER BATTERY** EXPECTED TO LAST **WEEKS** CAN BE **SPENT** IN **SECONDS** WITHIN THESE WALLS.

ZZZZZZH

YOU ALL CAN **BLEED** WITHIN THESE WALLS, OLD MAN.

I AM TYPHON, LORD OF CHAOS. PROTECTOR OF THIS REALM.

YOU HAVE INTRUDED UPON THE FORTRESS OF FATE.

AND FOR THAT--

--YOU WILL ALL BURN IN HELL.

SKREE

SKREEEE

SKREE

SKREE

SKREE

SKREE

SKREE

FWOOSH!

AT LAST.

THE SORROWFUL AVOUCHED YOU WOULD COME.

FWOOSH!!!

SIZZZZ

HANG TIGHT, HAWKMAN.

YOU ALL RIGHT?

OF COURSE. GIVE ME A BREAK.

WHAT'S WITH--

DON'T WORRY, WALLY, ANYTHING LESS THAN A *THIRD DEGREE* MAKES HIM *GIGGLE*.

GOD, NO. NOT AGAIN...

THERE *ARE* THINGS WORSE THAN DEATH, TED. *MUCH* WORSE

WE'RE IN *LIMBO?*

THE ORIGINAL JSA WERE *IMPRISONED* HERE FOR *YEARS*, WALLY. FORCED TO FIGHT A *BATTLE* NEITHER SIDE COULD EVER WIN. NO MATTER HOW *FAST* WE STRUCK, THIS DEMON... SURTUR... TOOK WHAT WE THREW AT HIM AND CAME BACK FOR MORE.

THE TIME WE SPENT HERE, THE PAIN WE'RE ABOUT TO GO THROUGH...I'M SORRY, WALLY.

IT IS CALLED *RAGNAROK*. THE *TWILIGHT* OF THE *GODS*.

THE HEROES OF *NORSE LEGEND* FOUGHT THEIR FINAL WAR HERE. THAT BEHEMOTH GETS *OUT*, THE WORLD *ENDS*.

DOCTOR BEDLAM. OUR TEAMMATES TURNING AGAINST US. SURTUR. THIS IS CONNECTED, I'M SURE OF THAT. I JUST CAN'T BEGIN TO GUESS HOW.

SO WHICH WAY DO WE *RUN* OUT A' HERE?

WE *DON'T*, FLASH JUNIOR.

DON'T MEAN NO OFFENSE TO ANYONE HERE. I MEAN, THIS IS A GOOD *GROUP* OF *JOES*. BUT THE *LAST* TIME WE FOUGHT THIS *HOT SHOT* TO A *STANDSTILL*--

--IT TOOK THE ENTIRE *JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA* TO DO IT.

FSHHHH

WE AIN'T GONNA LAST *TWO* ROUNDS.

SWOOSH

RNN.

AND ME WITHOUT MY ASBESTOS TIGHTY-WHITIES.

BWOOSH

SHRRRM

KLANG

MY NAME IS MR. TERRIFIC. I AM THE SMARTEST MAN ON EARTH.

I AM CURRENTLY BROADCASTING OVER EVERY RADIO AND TELEVISION STATION IN THE WORLD.

WHAT WAS ONCE COAST CITY.

HAL JORDAN, PLEASE--

--WHY WON'T PEOPLE FORGET YOU!? I'M GREEN LANTERN!

SHAKOOM

COAST CITY HAS GREEN LANTERN

AND I'M ASKING EVERY UNITED STATES CITIZEN TO REACT INTELLIGENTLY TO THE OUTBREAKS THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTRY.

PHOENIX.

I NEED HER!

SHE'S MINE!

BOYS, BOYS, BOYS. THERE'S PLENTY OF ME TO GO AROUND.

THIS IS A FRIGHTENING TIME FOR AMERICA. BE CAREFUL WHO YOU TRUST. TAKE UP ARMS. DEFEND YOURSELF--

SEATTLE.

IT'S SO MUCH EASIER... TO JUST... SLEEP.

MANHATTAN.

--KILL IF NECESSARY.

AND DO IT WITH PRIDE.

--VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT GOTHAM CITY AND SURROUNDING AREAS. THE EXACT NUMBER OF DEATHS IS UNCERTAIN BUT--

--THE ENTIRE CITY OF SEATTLE SEEMS TO HAVE FALLEN INTO A DEEP SLEEP. S.T.A.R. LABS IS ON THE SCENE DESPERATELY TRYING TO--

--BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER IN THE STREETS OF ST. ROCH--

--FAWCETT CITY RIOTS--

--DETROIT--

--KEYSTONE CITY--

--DALLAS--

--SAN FRANCISCO--

ARE YOU PLEASED?

VERY MUCH SO.

CONTINUE PREACHING, MY HEROES.

FWASSH

THERE IT IS, PEOPLE--

--THE ROCK OF ETERNITY!

I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS PLACE. WILDCAT WAS HERE ONCE.

SHAZAM'S SPIRIT IS BOUND TO THE ROCK. AGES AGO, HE MADE A PACT WITH A HANDFUL OF DEITIES. THEY LENT HIM THEIR ATTRIBUTES AND IN RETURN, HE BECAME THEIR MORTAL CHAMPION.

WHEN HIS TIME PASSED, HE CROSSED OVER TO THE SPIRIT REALM, BEQUEATHING THOSE ATTRIBUTES TO A SUCCESSION OF PROTÉGÉS.

YOUR TEAMMATE, CAPTAIN MARVEL, IS SIMPLY THE LATEST IN A LONG LINE. BLACK ADAM WAS THE FIRST.

SET YOUR SHIP ON AUTO-PILOT. AT THIS RANGE I CAN TELEPORT US INSIDE.

TFIL EHT LIEV FO SRAET!

THOSE STATUES--

THEY REPRESENT THE SEVEN DEADLY ENEMIES OF MAN. SHAZAM TRAPPED THEIR SPIRITS HERE EONS AGO.

BUT THESE ARE OUR TEAMMATES--

NOT CORPOREALLY. YOU'RE LOOKING AT THEIR INNER SPIRITS. THEIR SOULS.

PRIDE ENVY GR ANGER SLOTH LUST GLUTTONY

SOMEHOW, THE SPIRITS OF THE SEVEN ARE LOOSE-- RUNNING RAMPANT AS THEY INHABIT THE BODIES OF OUR FRIENDS.

HEY!

SOMEONE'S DOWN THERE--

THE WIZARD?!

BUT WHO COULD HAVE--?

COME NOW, SAND. SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOUR OLD FRIEND--

--JOHNNY SORROW!

DID YOU *REALLY* THINK YOU COULD *DESTROY* ME, GOLDEN BOY?

I MADE YOU A *PROMISE*.

I *TOLD* YOU I WOULD BRING THIS WORLD TO ITS *KNEES*--

--AND *SORROW* ALWAYS KEEPS HIS *WORD*!

FIFTY TO ONE SAYS PRESIDENT LUTHOR IS BEHIND THIS.

CONTRARY TO YOUR BELIEFS, ARCHER, NOT EVERY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IS CORRUPT.

THOUGHT YOU COULD SEE IN THE DARK, DOC.

PUT A LID ON IT, BOYS.

MID-NITE, YOU HAD AN IDEA ON HOW TO BREACH THE SECURITY MEASURES?

YOUR CANARY CRY IS USUALLY CAPABLE OF REACHING THE UPPER ENDS OF THE AUDIBLE SONIC SPECTRUM. BUT IF YOU FOCUS YOURSELF, OPEN YOUR LUNGS UP--

--I'M BETTING YOU CAN CREATE AN ULTRASONIC ATTACK THAT WILL KNOCK OUT THE GUARDS, THE AIDES, EVERYONE.

BETTER STAND BEHIND HER, GREEN ARROW. YOU'RE IN THE LINE OF FIRE.

HEY. WATCH THE HANDS.

COME IN.

THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...

YOUR CRY SHOULD HAVE RENDERED PRESIDENT LUTHOR UNCONSCIOUS.

JUST LIKE MY FOURTH GRADE TEACHER. EYES IN BACK OF HIS HEAD.

THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S NOT LUTHOR. NOT EXACTLY.

IT'S ALL FITTING TOGETHER.

THE POSSESSIONS, THE PSYCHIC ATTACKS--

I COMMEND YOU, BLACK CANARY.

YOU ALWAYS HAVE BEEN A WORTHY ADVERSARY.

KRSHHH

MOST HAVE *FORGOTTEN* MY *NAME*. CAST ME *ASIDE*.

BUT *YOU* REMEMBER, BLACK CANARY.

KRRRRRR

YOUR OPPONENT FROM SO MANY YEARS AGO...

NOW THE *GAME* CAN *BEGIN*.

THOOM

HRRR.

FFF--

FWTCHH

AND DESPERO WILL WIN.

FATE'S TOWER:

DR. FATE'S BEEN COMPROMISED--

LOOKS LIKE THE INMATES ARE--

;NNNGH!--RUNNING THE ASYLUM, HERE!

CAREFUL, SUPERMAN, YOUR POWERS ARE ON THE WANE--

--YOU'RE MORE VULNERABLE THAN BEFORE.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, DIANA, I'VE STILL GOT A FEW TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE --

--POWERS OR NO POWERS!

MMMmPHHHARRRR!!!!!

HIT HIM NOW! EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!

SH-THOOM

KWHOMMP

LOOK AT THEM *RUN*.

COWARDS, ALWAYS.

FIND THE *ONE* STRAND WE *NEED*--

--THE *DOORWAY* WHICH WILL LEAD US--

GREAT, PROPS FOR EVERYONE. BUT WE'RE STILL *STUCK* HERE.

NOT *NECESSARILY*.

I'M WILLING TO BET OUR *FRIEND* KNOWS THE WAY OUT OF THIS *FUNHOUSE*.

I'VE *TRIED* THIS ONCE *BEFORE*. NOT IN A LONG WHILE.

USED MY *WILLPOWER* TO SIFT THROUGH THE *TRILLIONS* OF ELECTROCHEMICAL *IMPULSES* THAT MAKE UP A PERSON'S *MEMORY*--

"--BACK TO OUR FRIENDS."

FWOOSH

NO. JAY...

DON' WORRY 'BOUT THEM, KIDDO.

THIS IS LIMBO.

PLACE IS DESIGNED BY THE HIGHER POWERS TO KEEP YOU FIGHTIN' FOREVER.

MEANING THE BELL NEVER RINGS.

WHAT--?

I DO HATE THIS PLACE. FEELS LIKE EVERY CELL IN MY BODY IS ON FIRE.

THAT WAS ABSOLUTELY... FASCINATING. A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE... I THINK I SAW MY FATHER.

WHERE IN HERA'S--?

OH, MY GOD. WE'RE IN LIMBO.

VVVV

WHO IS HE?

EXTRATERRESTRIAL DICTATOR. ONE OF THE LEAGUE'S FIRST ADVERSARIES. HE USES MIND CONTROL TO--

KAZZAK

RRRAA!

WHAT...

WHAT DO YOU... WANT?

I WANT THE *JEWEL* OF THIS GALAXY.

NN.

I WANT *EARTH.*

DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND *WHY* YOUR *WORLD* IS CONSIDERED A *PRIZE* BY EVERY POWER-HUNGRY *EMPIRE* AND *CONQUEROR* IN THE *UNIVERSE?*

PERHAPS YOU *ASSUMED* IT WAS THE PLETHORA OF *HEROES* THIS PLANET CALLS ITS *OWN?*

EARTH IS *UNIQUE* IN THE *UNIVERSE.*

EVERY OTHER CHARTED WORLD HAS *STAMPED* OUT THE *DIVERSITY* AMONG RACE AND CULTURE...WHERE, SO FAR, EARTH HAS SOMEHOW RETAINED IT.

THOUSANDS OF LANGUAGES, CULTURES AND PERSPECTIVES. DIVERSITY THAT, WHEN PROPERLY *EXPLOITED,* WILL BE CAPABLE OF ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING.

FORTUNATELY, YOUR WORLD CONTINUES TO BE CAUGHT IN *INTERNAL WAR.*

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR *SAVAGERY.* IT'S WHAT MAKES MY *GOALS* POSSIBLE.

IT'S TIME TO LEAD A WORLD AGAIN.

SHRRRP

WHEN I WAS BANISHED FROM MY HOME PLANET OF KALANOR, I WAS BLINDED BY RAGE AND BLOODLUST.

I MAY HAVE CONTINUED TO EVOLVE--PHYSICALLY--BUT PSYCHOLOGICALLY I WAS FOUND LACKING.

I'D SQUANDERED MY ENERGIES ON PRIMITIVE FRONTAL ATTACKS. ALLOWED MYSELF TO BE OBSESSED WITH VENGEANCE.

--LEAVING MY RUDDERLESS SPIRIT TO WANDER.

FROM LEADER TO EXILE ALL BECAUSE OF EARTH'S HEROES. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA.

AND IN ONE SUCH BATTLE, MY PHYSICAL FORM WAS FINALLY DESTROYED--

EVENTUALLY, MY PSYCHIC FORM COALESCED ON THE ABYSSAL PLANE, A DIMENSION NESTLED BETWEEN THE CRACKS OF REALITY.

HE CALLED HIMSELF JOHNNY SORROW.

LIKE ME, HIS PHYSICAL FORM HAD BEEN SUNDERED FROM YOUR WORLD. APPARENTLY IT WAS HIS CRY FOR HELP THAT I HAD UNINTENTIONALLY ANSWERED.

HE BLAMED ANOTHER TEAM OF HEROES--THE JUSTICE SOCIETY--FOR HIS WRETCHED STATE.

IN THE CAULDRON OF OUR SHARED HATRED, A PACT WAS FORGED.

WE NEEDED AN ARMY. A HORDE THROUGH WHICH WE WOULD DISTRACT EARTH'S HEROES--

--AND IN DOCTOR BEDLAM, SORROW HAD SELECTED THE PERFECT CATSPAW.

CAPABLE OF PROJECTING HIS ASTRAL FORM INTO A HOST OF ANDROID ANIMATES, BEDLAM SCOURED THE COSMOS LOOKING FOR WORLDS TO PLUNDER--

TOGETHER WE HAD THE PSYCHIC STRENGTH TO COMMAND HIM TO THE ABYSSAL PLANE...WHERE I CONSUMED HIS EGO--

--AND WE USED HIS TECHNOLOGY TO BRIDGE MY WAY BACK TO EARTH.

THE ASSAULT ON THE AFRICAN CONGRESS WAS MERELY A RUSE. A WAY TO DRIFT INTO LUTHOR'S BODY.

--AND THUS BEGAN THE *SECOND PHASE* OF OUR PLAN.

WHILE *DESPERO* MADE HIS WAY TO *EARTH*, I TURNED MY ATTENTION TO THE *ROCK OF ETERNITY*. A JEWEL I'VE COVETED FOR *QUITE* SOME TIME.

THE ROCK OF *ETERNITY* EXISTS IN ALL *POSSIBLE* DIMENSIONS--INCLUDING THE *ABYSSAL PLANE*.

GIVEN MY *UNIQUE TALENTS*, PUTTING THE *WIZARD* OUT OF COMMISSION WAS *CHILD'S PLAY*.

MY ULTIMATE GOAL WAS ATTAINED. THE *SINS* WHICH HAD BEEN *ENTOMBED* HERE WERE *MINE* TO COMMAND.

THE SINS WOULD BE *RELEASED*-- UNLEASHED UPON YOUR *PEERS*.

THEY WOULD FUNCTION AS THE *VECTOR*, SPREADING THEIR *EMPATHIC* VIRUS THROUGHOUT THE *WORLD*.

AND IN THE *CHAOS* THAT *FOLLOWED*--

--DESPERO AND I WOULD BE FREE TO EXACT OUR REVENGE.

THEN I'D SAY IT WAS TIME TO PUT YOU OUT OF--

WHAT--???

KSSSH

HE CAN BECOME IMMATERIAL. BE ON YOUR TOES--HE COULD REAPPEAR AT ANY SECOND.

AND WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET HIM REMOVE HIS MASK.

EVEN A GLIMPSE OF HIS TRUE FACE IS LETHAL.

IF HE'S IMMATERIAL, HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO CATCH HIM?

HE HAS TO BECOME TANGIBLE IN ORDER TO TAKE OFF THE MASK. THAT'S WHEN HE'S VULNERABLE--

FZZZASHH

RRRRAAAAARRRRR

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?

TRANSMUTED HIS MASK INTO TAR.

AND YOU EXPECT SOMEONE LIKE JOHNNY SORROW TO KEEP HIS WORD?

SORROW SIMPLY WANTS TO WITNESS YOUR DESTRUCTION, CANARY.

TO SLANDER YOUR REPUTATIONS AND CREATE MISERY AND ANARCHY ACROSS THE WORLD.

HE COULDN'T CARE LESS IF I WANT TO PICK UP THE PIECES.

AND RULE LIKE A KING.

THAT'S... THE LAST STRAW, UGLY. NO ONE... SOILS MY COUNTRY'S FLAG...

DIDN'T KNOW YOU...WERE A PATRIOT.

HELL, I BLEED RED, WHITE AND BLUE...JUST DIFFERENT SHADES THAN MOST OF YOU.

AND HOW DOES AN EARTH-MAN LIKE YOU EXPECT TO STOP ME WITH AN ARROW?

NOT JUST ANY ARROW, FINHEAD--

TNK

HURRR!

FWASSHT

--A TEAR-GAS ARROW!

HOLD YOUR BREATH, KIDS.

KSSSHT

BWOOSH

KRAAK

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

HH.

IT'S BEEN SO *LONG* SINCE I'VE PLAYED A GOOD *GAME*.

STAND BACK!

STAR?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

FSSH

MY COSMIC ROD IS POWERED BY *SUNLIGHT*. I'M GIVING SUPERMAN'S POWERS A QUICK *RECHARGE*.

THANKS, STAR.

YO! NICE OF YOU FOLKS TO *DROP* IN--

SIT BACK. STAY A *WHILE*.

THE *ATOM'S* ABOUT TO TEACH THIS FLAMING MOOK A *LESSON* IN *THERMODYNAMICS*.

THE JSA FOUGHT THAT THING FOR *CENTURIES*--THE BEST WE COULD ACCOMPLISH WAS A *STANDSTILL*.

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE PROFESSOR RAY PALMER PINCH-HITTING FOR YOU.

SURTUR'S A *FIRE DEMON*, RIGHT? IN A NUTSHELL, WHAT THAT MEANS IS--HE'S A WALKING BUNDLE OF INTERNAL *NUCLEAR REACTIONS*. A SENTIENT *STELLAR MASS*.

IF THE *FLASHES* CAN LEND HIM THEIR *VELOCITY*, I'M BETTING THEY'LL BE ABLE TO SPEED UP THE RATE OF HIS *STELLAR EVOLUTION*.

THEY KEEP PUSHING *HARD* ENOUGH, THEY'LL *EXHAUST* THE NUCLEAR FUEL AT HIS *CORE*. THE RESULTING GRAVITATIONAL CONTRACTION SHOULD TURN HIM INTO A *BLACK HOLE*.

SO?

SO THIS--BLACK HOLES ARE *WORMHOLES*. SHORTCUTS THROUGH THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM. IF WE CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY TO POINT OUR WORM-HOLE IN THE RIGHT *DIRECTION*, WE MAY BE ABLE TO HITCH A RIDE BACK *HOME*.

AND THAT'S WHERE *SENTINEL* COMES IN.

IF THE STORIES ABOUT YOU ARE *TRUE*, SENTINEL--YOUR *POWERS* ARE ONLY *RESTRICTED* BY THE LIMITS OF YOUR *IMAGINATION*.

THINK YOU'RE CAPABLE OF *CONCENTRATING* HARD ENOUGH TO WISH US BACK TO *EARTH*? ESSENTIALLY *REDIRECTING* THE *PATH* OF A *BLACK HOLE*?

NO OFFENSE, ATOM, BUT WHAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING IS *ABSURD*.

I *KNOW* IT IS. BUT IT'S THE *BEST* I CAN COME UP WITH. AND JUST SO YOU DON'T THINK IT'S *TOO* EASY, LET ME ADD *ANOTHER* WRINKLE.

WHILE YOU'RE TAPPING YOUR PROVERBIAL RUBY SLIPPERS TOGETHER, YOU'LL ALSO HAVE TO *SHIELD* US FROM THE GRAVITATIONAL *FORCES* THAT SURTUR WILL BE UNLEASHING.

SUPERMAN, WONDER WOMAN--THEY *MIGHT* BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE GRAVITATIONAL TIDE.

BUT THE *REST* OF US--

I THINK THAT'S A *RISK* WE'RE ALL WILLING TO TAKE.

RELAX, BIG DOG--YOU CAN DO THIS STANDING ON YOUR *HEAD*.

SHUT UP AND LET ME *THINK*, WILDCAT.

HOLD MY HAND, COURTNEY.

WHY?

I NEED HELP.

YOU MIGHT FEEL A SLIGHT SHOCK--

--I'M ABSORBING YOUR KINETIC ENERGY--

--NOW!

HE'S GONE SUPERNOVA, ABOUT TO COLLAPSE AND--

NOW, SENTINEL!

HHRN!

WHAT WAS ONCE THE JSA BROWNSTONE.

SH WWW

KRRRRRK

WE'RE BACK!

YOU DID IT, SENTINEL.

-- BARELY--

BUT WHAT'S HAPPENED, WALLY?

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR WORLD?

THE ROCK OF ETERNITY.

THE ROCK-- IT'S...

IT'S MOVING...

LET'S BEAT IT, PEOPLE!

NO TELLING WHEN SORROW WILL POP UP AGAIN OR WHERE THIS ROCK IS GO--

UH-OH...

...THIS ISN'T GOOD, IS IT?

HEY. MY JLA EMERGENCY BEEPER IS GOING OFF. SOMEONE DOWN THERE JUST--

EKAT SU OT KCALB YRANAC!

HOLY--

YOU SCARED THE *HELL* OUTTA ME, ZEE.

HEARD YOUR SIGNAL. WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT? IS LUTHOR--?

NOT LUTHOR. WE'RE IN FOR QUITE A *FIGHT.*

THEN BEFORE WE GO TO *WAR*--

--TELL US WHAT WE NEED TO *KNOW.*

DO YOU SEE IT, POWER GIRL? THE RAW ENERGY THAT IS FLOWING THROUGH MY VEINS. IT'S ALL MINE.

FORGET IT, MARVEL. YOU'RE TOO EARNEST FOR ME.

--YAAWWWNNN--

--CHANGE IT TO GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT.

SOUNDS FAIR.

BUT I WANT YOUR RING.

YOU AREN'T WORTHY.

AM TOO!

NOT.

TOO!

YOU DON'T WANT TO MESS WITH THE POWER OF THE GREEN LANTERN, PLASTIC MAN. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--

--PLAY WITH FIRE AND YOU GET BURNED!

BWOOSH

YOW!

ALL RIGHT, MR. GREEN-WITH-ENVY! FIRE!!!

BEEN DYIN' TA SAY THAT.

CHOOM

CHOOM CHOOM

WHY WON'T YOU JUST DIE, OLD MAN!

TSUR SKNAT!

LISTEN CAREFULLY, GANG! NO ONE GETS HURT. OKAY? NO ONE BUT DESPERO AND SORROW.

FLASH! JAY!

DESPERO'S GOING TO BREAK MY ARM.

WHAT? HOURMAN, WHAT ARE YOU--

WHEN IT HAPPENS, I NEED THE TWO OF YOU TO CAUSE A DISTRACTION.

A BIG ONE.

TRUST ME.

BUT--

WE DO.

FIGHT IT, BATMAN! THAT'S NOT YOU TALKING-- NNGH!

IT'S THE DEMON INSIDE OF YOU, TWISTING YOUR ANGER AROUND!

TCHINK

TCHINK

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ANGER, MID-NITE?

MMMPH!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT INJUSTICE?

THE STREETS ARE DROWNING IN CRIME. THE WHOLE WORLD IS SINKING UNDER ITS WEIGHT.

ANGER IS THE ONLY RATIONAL RESPONSE.

THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT PEOPLE TO THINK-- YOU WANT THEM TO FEAR YOU--

HHHNNGG!

CRACK

BUT I SEE THROUGH YOU, BATMAN. ANGER'S NEVER BEEN WHAT DRIVES YOU.

IT'S HOPE. HOPE FOR A BETTER... WORLD

NNNYYYAAARRGHH!!

AIIYEEEE!

NNNN--LISTEN, MID-NITE--

CAPTAIN MARVEL IS THE KEY.

SAY AGAIN?

THE LIGHTNING-- FREE HIM AND YOU'LL FREE THE REST. GET HIM TO TELL YOU THE NAME OF HIS WIZARD.

KRAK OOM

CHECK THAT, BATS.

KA-RAAAAM

I HAVE CONSUMED ALL THE POWER OF THE WIZARD! IT'S MINE.

YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME WITH AN ARROW?

AND SOME ROPE, MARVEL--

--WONDER WOMAN'S GOLDEN LASSO!

THWIP

HUAKKK

NOW YOU HAVE TO TELL THE TRUTH, NO MATTER WHAT. 'LONG AS SHE'S STILL CONNECTED TO THAT LASSO.

SO GIVE IT UP. WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE WIZARD WHO GAVE YOU THOSE POWERS?

SH-NNNNN

SHAZAM!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? WHAT HAPPENED TO MARVEL?

HE'S GONE. AND SO IS THE GLUTTONY DEMON. THE SHOCK KNOCKED HIM LOOSE.

THE ROCK OF ETERNITY--WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO IT?

THE *LIGHTNING* IS FLOWING BACK INTO THE WIZARD.

FREE.

FINALLY.

AND NOW--

--TO RE-CHAIN THE SEVEN DEADLY ENEMIES OF MAN.

OWOWOWOWOWWW!

HRRRRRR!

AAAH!

BILLY. THE SINS WILL BOTHER YOU NO MORE.

MY SISTER AND FREDDY. ARE THEY--

YOUR "FAMILY" IS FINE. NOW TAKE MY POWERS, SON. SPEAK MY NAME AGAIN.

BE A CHAMPION.

SHAZAM!

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

ONE WORD COMES TO MIND, BATMAN.

TERRIFIC.

THE SINS HAVE BEEN EXORCISED.

I SUPPOSE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET OUR HANDS *DIRTY* THEN.

JUST GIVE ME ANOTHER MOMENT TO *REFORMULATE* MY *MASK*.

CHOOOM

THEY *WANT* TO *FACE US* DIRECTLY, SORROW?

LET THEM.

SKRAATCH

HOW DELIGHTFUL.

KRAOOO

NRAAAH!

KRAATCH

RRAAAHH!

RRRIP

AWAY.

FWAP

THESE NUCLEAR BLASTS AND MAGICAL STARHEART ENERGY.

FZOOM

LIKE MIXING GASOLINE AND FIRE.

IT CAN GET MESSY.

KRAKKOOOOM

SORROW WILL CONSUME YOUR SOULS. I YOUR BLOOD!

KRAAKK

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, DESPERO--

BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED TODAY.

BUT NOT OURS!

WHAAM

RRAAH!

FWASHASHT

ON TO YOUR NEXT LIFE, WARRIOR!

I LIKE THE WAY YOU *THINK*, TERRIFIC.

LIKEWISE, BATMAN. GREEN LANTERN, CAN YOU *HEAR* ME?

WHU--?

WE HAVE AN *IDEA*.

GIVE GOD MY REGARDS, WON'T YOU?

HNN.

CLOSE YOUR *EYES*, FIRESTORM! THERE'S NO *TIME* TO--

SURE THERE IS.

FZOOOOOM

YOU CHANGED HIM TO... *GLASS*? MAKING HIM *INCAPABLE* OF SEEING SORROW. BUT HOW? YOUR POWERS DON'T WORK ON *ORGANICS*.

GUY'S NOT A CARBON-BASED LIFE FORM, PROFESSOR. MAKING HIS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE *PUTTY* IN MY HANDS.

WHAT?

WE'LL TAKE *THAT* MASK, SORROW.

FWASSHT

WITHOUT IT, YOU'RE *TANGIBLE*.

AND NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

KOOM

RRR.

YA WOULDN'T HIT A GUY WITH GLASSES, WOULD YA?

MAYBE HE WOULD...

MMMMMMMMP

YOUR TIME IS ALMOST UP.

FOOL. MY TIME IS JUST BEGINNING.

KRAK

AAAH!!

HATED SITTING ON THE SIDELINES. WHAT'S HOURMAN--

TRUST HIM, WALLY.

HEY, UGLY! OVER HERE!

CHOOM CHOOM

FZZSH

KA-BOOM

CAPTAIN ATOM?!

WHERE... WHEN...

HOURMAN, HOW DID YOU KNOW CAPTAIN ATOM WOULD--

MY *TIME VISION*, JAY. I HAD A FLASH-FORWARD. KNEW WITHIN AN HOUR FROM THEN DESPERO WOULD... BREAK MY ARM.

AND THAT CAPTAIN ATOM WOULD *LAND* A SPLIT SECOND AFTERWARDS, APPARENTLY, SORROW *TRIGGERED* HIM TO *QUANTUM JUMP* FORWARD IN TIME.

SO YOU USED THAT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE. BUT YOUR ARM...IT *STILL* GOT BROKEN.

NOTHING *TIME* WON'T HEAL.

SAND, GET OUT OF THERE!

RELAX, TERRIFIC. I'M A GEO-MORPH, REMEMBER? CAN MOVE EARTH AND ROCK AT WILL.

EVEN BIG ONES.

THOOOM

I AM NOT... SO EASILY DESTROYED.

WE KNOW.

LANTERN?

WITH PLEASURE.

FWAAASH

RRAAAHHHH!!

HHNN.

YOUR GUESS WAS *RIGHT*, MARVEL. SORROW'S *GAZE* EXORCISED DESPERO FROM LUTHOR.

I DON'T *GUESS*, WONDER WOMAN. THAT WAS THE *WISDOM* OF *SOLOMON* TALKING.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY... LUTHOR.

SO HORRIBLE... SO...

THANK YOU, SUPERMAN--

-- AND DAMN YOU FOR MAKING ME SAY THAT.

DON'T THANK JUST ME, MR. PRESIDENT.

THANK THE WORLD'S GREATEST HEROES.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO. ANYTHING AT ALL.

JUST ASK.

ACTUALLY, MR. PRESIDENT...

THERE *IS* SOMETHING THE JSA COULD USE NOW.

MANHATTAN.

ONE WEEK LATER.

THE NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE JSA.

JSA

QUITE A SETUP THE PRESIDENT'S PROVIDED FOR YOU, CAPTAIN MARVEL.

BUILT ON WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE OLD FOUNDATION.

IT WAS THE *LEAST* LUTHOR COULD DO IF YOU ASK ME.

EXCUSE ME, GUYS AND GALS.

BUT WE'D LIKE TO PROPOSE A *TOAST*.

TO THE *GREATEST* HEROES *AMERICA* HAS TO OFFER, THE JUSTICE SOCIETY.

AND TO THE GREATEST HEROES THE *UNIVERSE* HAS TO OFFER, THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

COME ON, GUYS. *KISS* AND MAKE UP. I THOUGHT WE MADE A PRETTY GOOD TEAM.

DON'T *PUSH* IT, CANARY.

FOR *ONCE*, I'M IN *AGREEMENT* WITH YOU.

COURTNEY--ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?* YOU'RE MISSING QUITE A *PARTY.*

I'M OKAY. JUST *THINKING,* I GUESS--

THINKING ABOUT *WHAT?*

WHAT THE *REST* OF THE *WORLD* THINKS ABOUT *US.*

I MEAN, WE CALL OURSELVES *SUPERHEROES,* BUT C'MON--LOOK WHAT *HAPPENED.* WE COULD'VE MESSED UP THE WHOLE *PLANET.*

BUT WE *DIDN'T.* AND THAT'S WHAT'S *IMPORTANT.*

THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET--THEY'VE PUT THEIR *FAITH* IN US. THAT'S A *GIFT.* IT REALLY IS.

BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN A *THING* IF WE DON'T REMEMBER TO HAVE FAITH IN *OURSELVES,* TOO.

I SAW *SUPERMAN* AND *SENTINEL* FLY AWAY UP THERE--WHY DO THEY *DO* THAT?

PERSPECTIVE, COURTNEY--

"-PERSPECTIVE."

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